It is said that long ago, people believed *"the world repeated itself."*

As the grass and flowers bloom anew every year,

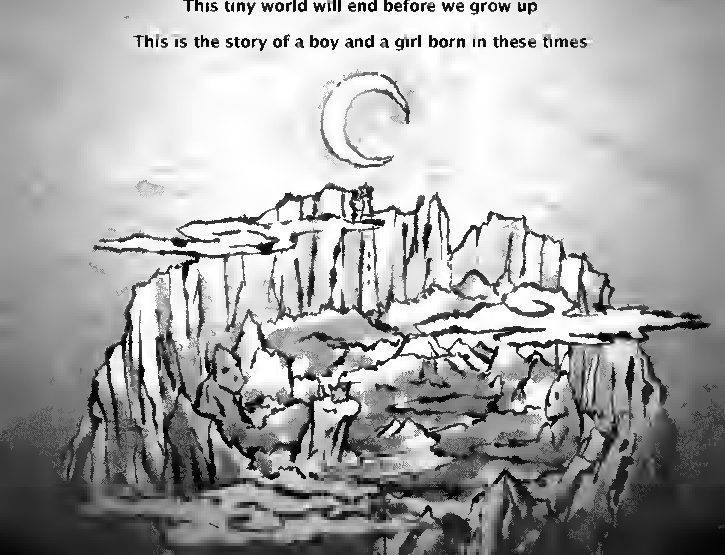
as the night turns into morning,

as civilizations crumble and rise from their own ashes

But the "world" will not repeat itself again

This tiny world will end before we grow up

This is the story of a boy and a girl born in these times



「きみのカケラ」

LOOK FOR ONE PIECE. TO THE FUTURE OF YOURS.

*Scanned by Snoopy
*Translated by Stephen Paul
*Edited by Siavash
Toriel Project of http://www.snoopycool.com & http://www.mangascreenz.com

Volume Two

The studious but tearful young princess of this country... Icoro

You know what a Hitogata is?
And the mischevious and mysterious young boy without any memories who continues his search for "something"
Because you're the first person
who answered "friend."
These two children met and forged a pact of "friendship"
Using this tiny bond to overlap the things each one is missing
doesn't feel any "pain"
—sorry lady, my body—
To think you've never smiled once, since you were born!

'Hitogata' a word that has been used in this world for years and years the origins long lost in the mists of time.

Hitogata can mean several different things

For instance, it can simply be a doll in the form of a human, or an ornament or decoration that is missing a piece of itself, but it is especially used in secret to disdain a child that is entirely MISSING one of the core human emotions joy, anger, pathos, humor

One day

specifically three members of the Warmonger Tribe in search of a "Hitogata" attack Icoro's home

some partners of the Politick Tribe, who govern the affairs of the country with a sinister plot in mind

and prompt her to go on a journey with the mysterious boy who saved her in search of the legendary "sun" that will save her kingdom

Ohhhh...
My men, my men, they're burning...
What is it?!
What is that "flame" from...?!
Hitogata...?
The children believed in this single hope with all of their lives
and even the adults clung to the legend left behind by an older civilization
Back then, the "sun" made the outside as bright as a lamp
and as warm as a heater
—It made the world filled with hope for the future, and people lived long lives.
Everyone lived happily, believing in the day to come...
And then
So this is the "Lower World"

IT LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF TEMPLE!
Can I? Can I really think of him as a friend ?
Gee, you really ARE smart!!
He's also missing some thing ?
Their adventure began
Eeep
Oh man thought I was a goner for sure. Whew.
Stop saying things like that it's GROSS!
MAKA HOW CAN SOMEONE LIKE "SOUL" AND "I WAKE SOUL TO A PRISONER TOOL PURSUED COME UNDOWN THE ROMANTIC PRIVATE THE NAME OF THE OLD CIVILIZATION" ?
SHIRO!
Your name is
SHIRO ?!
HMMM?
Mataku... Daddy Mommy
Wait for me
Yes, sir.
That SOUL has all many different things designed for him in you thought everything we might happen to you.
I'm going to go with Shiro, to find a "sun" okay ?
I'll fix this country...
オ オ オ
W... what is THAT?
All Roofs ?
Or "foe"?
Are you "friend"?

The princess, the boy the princess named "Shiro," and the princess' talking doll assistant Kuro have fallen from the 'Upper World," where the nobles live, to the "Lower World"...
Where they attempt to spend a night sleeping in a temple that houses a massive mysterious device
There, they are attacked by an eerie band of masked beings...
– we will deliver your sentence in the stead of our holy spirits –
And when the battle begins...
foes
Something changes inside of Shiro...

This is the story of two small *pieces
SHIN TAKAHASHI Presents
「きみのカケラ」
LOOK FO.. ONE PIECE TO THE FUTURE OF YOURS
The story of a young boy and girl living their short lives the best they can

Kimi no Kakera
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Kimi no Kakera

Chapter Two Part Three

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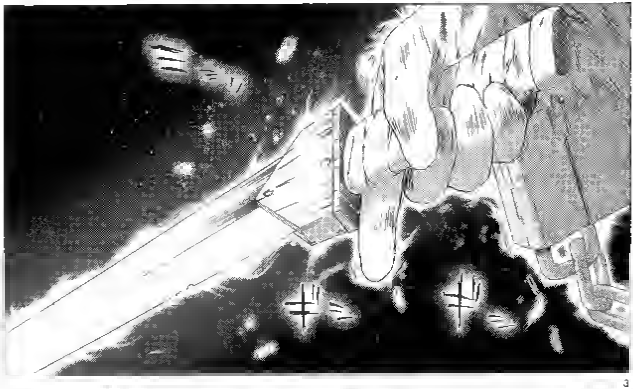


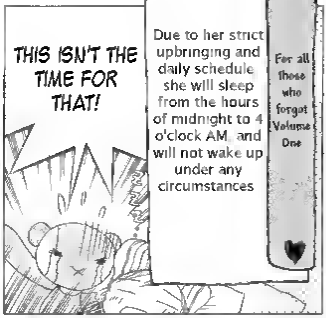
3

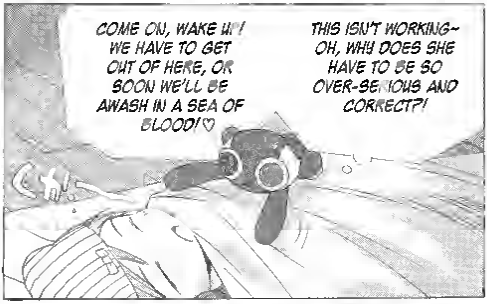
SHIRO!
HEY, SHIRO!
W-WHAT'S
GOING ON...

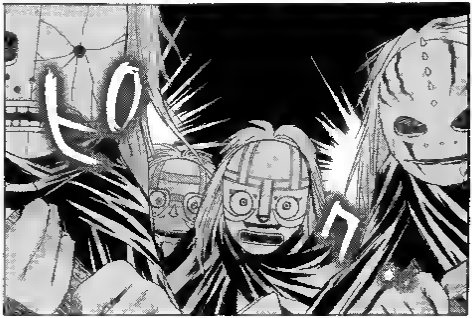
OH NO~
I GOT A REAL BAD
FEELIN' ABOUT THIS!
S-S-SOMEONE'S
GONNA DIE!♡

PRINCESS ICORO! WAKE UP!
IT'S SHIRO! HURRY!
IT'S LIKE HE'S FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME ENTIRELY...
AAACK! WHAT A COLD, PIERCING GLARE...

YIKES, THINGS ARE JUST ABOUT TO EXPLODE!
C'MON! GET UP, ICORO, GET UP! ♡

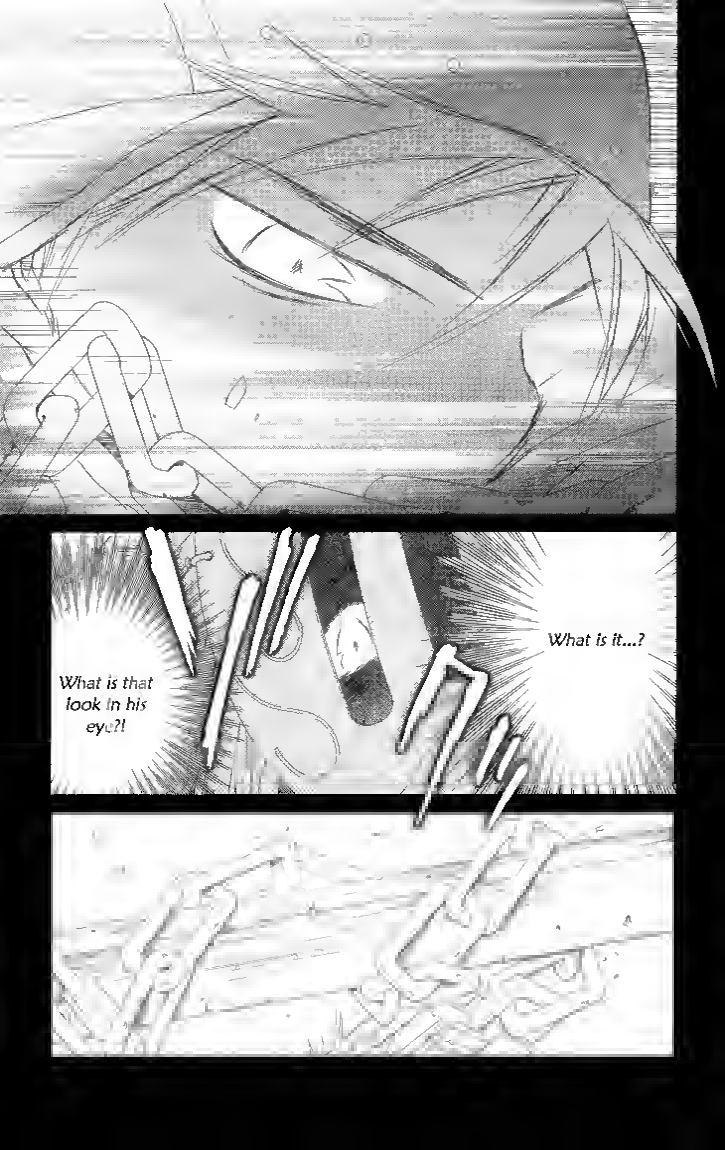

THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR THAT!
Due to her strict upbringing and daily schedule, she will sleep from the hours of midnight to 4 o'clock AM. and will not wake up under any circumstances
For all those who forgot Volume One

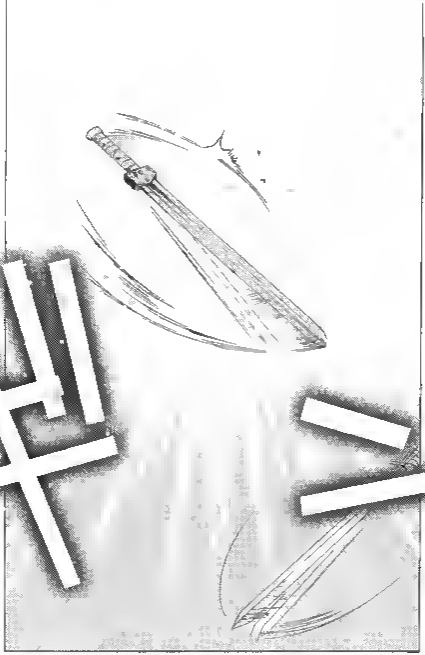

COME ON, WAKE UP! WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE, OR SOON WE'LL BE AWASH IN A SEA OF BLOOD! ♡
THIS ISN'T WORKING~ OH, WHY DOES SHE HAVE TO BE SO OVER-SERIOUS AND CORRECT?!
Ch!



IS THAT THE BOSS OF THE EVIL SPIRITS?!

!
10
!


What is that look in his eyes?!
What is it...?


ヤン

Aaargh!

ダーー
ビキビキ
ビキッ

14

Uhh...
ung...

HE LOOKS SO SCARY...
AAACK! SOMEBODY S-STOP HIM!

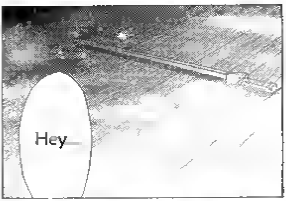
Look out, Big Brother!!
Hm-
Mmph!
I've got you now!
Too slow!

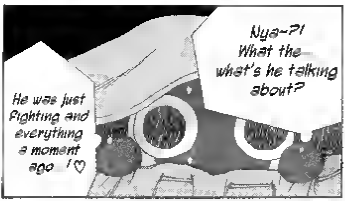
Now!! Follow Yona!
RAAAH
DROP

OH NO, HIS WEAPON ...
SHIRO!!

SHIRO
Hey guys
My body doesn't feel any "pain"
...sorry

What am I doing HERE?


Hey...


Nya~?! What the... what's he talking about?
He was just fighting and everything a moment ago ♡

Hey...

Huh?
What does he mean...?

...Who... am I?

Are you foe?
Or friend?
.....
.....
.....

ドドド
22
Aaaaaah!
The temple wall...

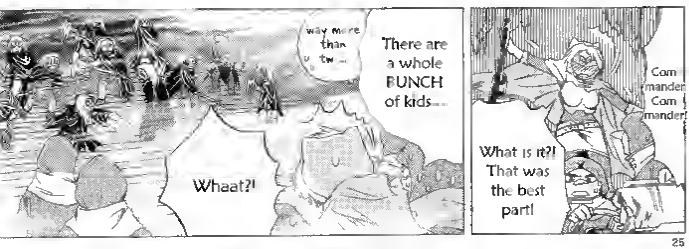
THEY'RE BACK TO NORMAL
HUH ? YOUR EYES
SHIRO ?
Whew, man, I thought my ears were gonna explode...
I KNEW IT WE'RE CURSED!!
How can this doll be talking?
SHIRO!! WHY WERE YOU JUST
23
What the ..?!
BOWN BOWN
BOWN
Where's that rumbling coming from--?
BOWN
BOWN BOWN
What's going on..?
BOWN
I dunno, the wall just blew up...
Oh no Don't tell me
HUH?
What's Shiro?
33

There you are, my sweet little Hitogata!♡
Now SURRENDER, brats!!

WAR-MONGER SOL-DIERS.
Who are they?
Them again...!
How could you...! You destroyed our temple wall...
RAAAAAAAAAH!!
The War-monger Tribe?!
War-mongers?!

We have more than enough soldiers and weapons
You won't get away THIS time!

Both of you!
Now give up and DIE!

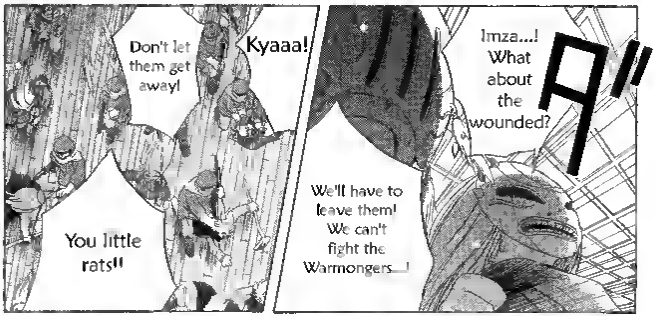

Whaat?!
There are a whole BUNCH of kids—
way more than tw—
Com mander! Com mander!
What is it?! That was the best part!

25

There are twelve in total
uhhh
five—
four,
three,
two,
One,
You're right

What should we do Imza?
Damn... have the Warmongers noticed us...?!
Shall we take them off, one by one?
and they're all wearing scary masks-
With this many kids, it'll be too hard to tell which one has the Hitogata...
we'll have to forget about taking the Stone back...
I guess...
Yes Ma'am!
We'll search them for the Hitogata from there
too bothersome
Whatever. Just round them all together
ヒソヒソ
.....
ガッ

Run for it!
That's the signal to retreat!! Hurry!
Retreat!
Retreat!!


Don't let them get away!
Kyaaa!
You little rats!!
Imza...! What about the wounded?
We'll have to leave them! We can't fight the Warmongers...!

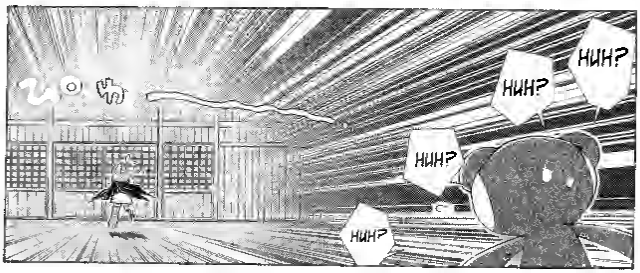
27

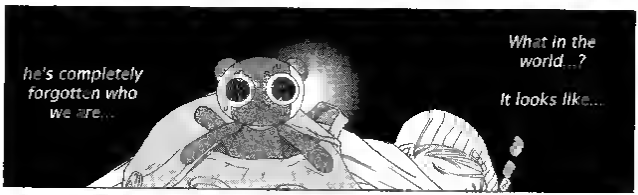
Gueh!
Gya!

Gr...
Rrrh!
Leave my comrades alone!!

カチャ
You little—.
TWERP!
25
AYE-AYE-AYE!! IT LOOKS LIKE THE EVIL SPIRITS AND THE WARMONGER SOLDIERS ARE FIGHTING!
S— SHIRO!! WE GOTTA TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CONFUSION AND BEAT A HASTY RETREAT!! ♡
LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!!

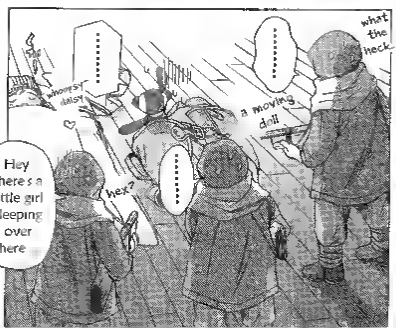
WAIT!
WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY WITHOUT ME?!
Huh?
Oh, sorry... My grampa taught me that when you're surrounded by enemies, the best thing you can do is run.
WOW, THAT'S A PRETTY DOWN-TO-EARTH GRAMPA ♡
30
BUT WAIT, WHY ARE YOU LEAVING WITHOUT ME OR PRINCESS ICORO?!


HUH?
HUH?
HUH?
HUH?


he's completely forgotten who we are...
What in the world...?
It looks like...

NYAA~
I'LL PUT A HEX ON YOU!
I'LL CURSE YOU UNTIL YOU'RE DEAD AS A DOORNAIL!
YOU WANT THAT?! ♡

HEY!
GET BACK HERE, YOU COLD-HEARTED, UNFEELING BASTARD!!

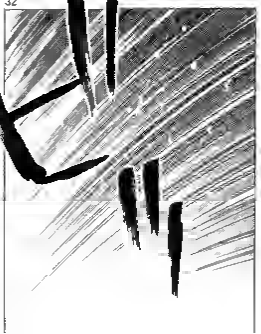

whoopsy daisy
what the heck
a moving doll
Hey there's a little girl sleeping over here
hex?

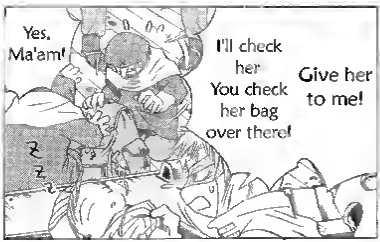
わはは
ゴーン
Commander, we found the little girl!
actually she was sleeping right over there!
Hmmm...
Pretending to be a doll

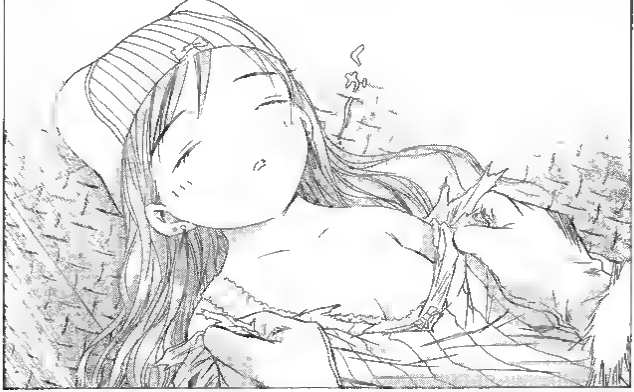
But... this is a magazine for children. I don't think we can do that...
especially not to a little girl...
What in the world are you TALKING about, you buffoon?!

Well done! Now strip her naked and take the Hitogata!
What?!

32


ヒ!!

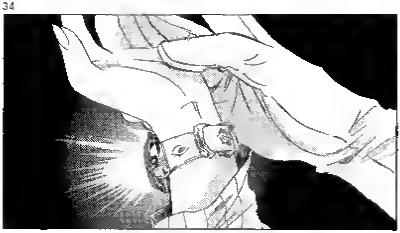

Yes, Ma'am!
I'll check her
You check her bag over there!
Give her to me!



Once again, the princess is well-raised, so she won't wake up I swear
And why is she STILL sleeping?
I was sure it was some kind of pendant
it's gone

It's not here! What about that bag?!
ARRRRRRR!! Where is she HIDING it?!
I'm never coming back, so this is the end! Goodbye!!
Dang her fast!
This is a Hitogata?

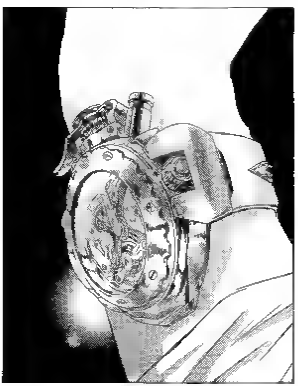
34



O... oh my.

Could this be one of those contraptions used to measure time..?

A "watch"..?!



Then it's true... she really is a princess...!!
Years ago, my papa the general told me only royalty owned them
Make way to the escape tunnel!!
Hurry!! Hurry!!
35
Forget about them!
B... but Imza! They've still got your sister Yona and our friends...
As soon as the last person makes it inside, we'll blow up the entrance, got it?!

We can't be afraid of sacrificing our brothers and sisters to achieve the goals of the Resistance!

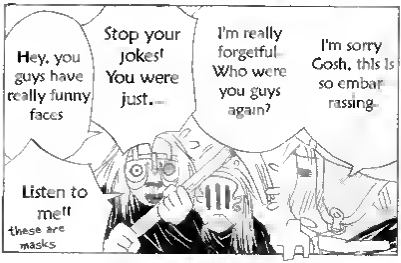
It's just a little girl, too young to have her diapers off yet little brat!
AAH!
A
A
A
Hehehe, what's this?
Ouch!!
NOOO!!

HMMM?
Don't play around with ADULTS like us!

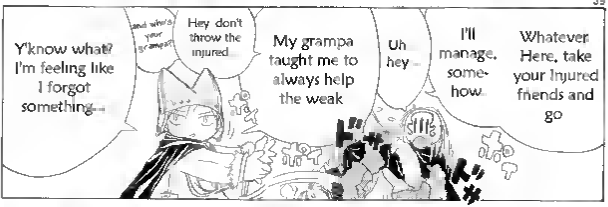
Gueh!
UGYAAA!
Ung!
W-what's going on?!
He's defeating the Warmongers...!!
37

Huff
Hey, you guys forgot something
don't leave your injured behind

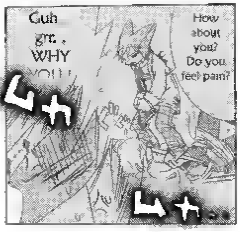
Just who ARE you?!
Hey.. What are you...?!


Hey, you guys have really funny faces
Stop your jokes! You were just...
I'm really forgetful. Who were you guys again?
I'm sorry Gosh, this is so embarrassing.
Listen to me!! these are masks

WHO AM I?


Y'know what? I'm feeling like I forgot something...
and who's your opponent
Hey don't throw the injured...
My grampa taught me to always help the weak
Uh hey...
I'll manage, somehow.
Whatever. Here, take your injured friends and go

What is it?
I just keep getting this feeling like I forgot something REALLLLY important!


Guh grr. WHY YOU!
How about you? Do you feel pain?
ムナ
ムナ…

What?!
Commander!! There, it's him!!
The kid who destroyed our tank!!

Kill him, if you must!
Yes, Ma'am!!
Seize him!! That's one of the kids we're looking for!!

40

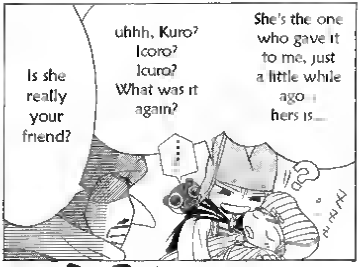
ズンズンズンズン
Wait a minute, why did I come back???

タ!!!
ビク!

I was too busy thinking...
Oh, sorry!!
YOW wWw WwW !!
A!!
Your name is SHIRO!
Shiro...

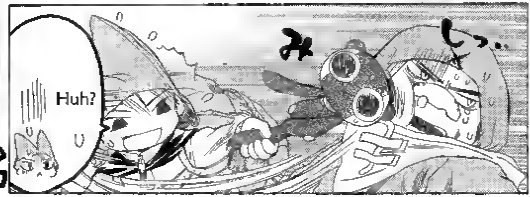
Whoa!!
Give her back, you little brat!
Oh here, give me that! She's my "friend"!
W-w-why you little-!!
Ah!
42
...name.
I'm not a "brat"! I have a name, you know!
Shiro?!
SHIRO.
Which is?
DE HEH HEH
What's a dog? Seriously, is it THAT cool?
Sounds like a dog's name
Yeah, Shiro! Isn't it cool? Isn't it cute? Oh my god I love it!

so... what was I about to do, again?
Well for convenience's sake, let's call her, uh, Icuro...


Is she really your friend?
uhhh, Kuro? Icoro? Icuro? What was it again?
She's the one who gave it to me, just a little while ago. Hers is...

Ohh!
Shut your piehole and give us back Icoro or Kuro or whatever her name is!

THAT'S right, this thing is Kuro!


Huh?

ギャ!
H-hey...
Um... sorry?
ギャ!
AAAH! W-what the?
THAT'S IT! Get ready to DIE, kid!
ムカ ムカ ムカ ムカ
Why you little...
Grr
Guh
H hey you
Uhh
Seriously, that was a mistake...
sorry
sorry
I, look out...
How do you use that thing, huh?
You want me to show you?!
Hold on! Don't point the gun at me!
Whoa whoa!
STAY STILL, KID!
Huh? What's that stick for?

Eww, nasty
Where did that little twerp go?!
Eeep
You...
How dare you touch a maiden in such a place—
THERE YOU ARE...
KYA...?!
Whoaaa. SCARY.
I'd die if that hit me...
SURRENDER, KID...
Don't do it! You'll shoot me inst...
Whoa— wait a minute! Settle down!

Get... AWAY from me!!
Whoaaoaoa ?!
Ah... ah...
Uh... sorr...
.....
Mm...

DIE!!
I... I didn't mean to...
Well.. wasn't that funny

Now!
Give back the princess!!
Uh oh Commander snapped
Nobody can stop her now

PSH
WITH HIS TEETH?!

She's my "friend"!
So I will protect her.
Well... isn't that sweet? I'm about to cry, here...
Uh...
Listen boy, it's sappy lines like that.
SHIRO
49

THAT PISS ME OFF MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE!!
W-w-whoa! W-what's going on?!
50
Hey! Over here!
Well where am I SUPPOSED to go...?!
NO, SHIRO!! THAT'S A DEAD END OVER THERE~~!♡

Hurry, hurry!
This is our secret passage-way!

Huh?
Here
H-

I'm repaying my debt to you! Now hurry!!
I'm Yona, a child of the Resistance!!

this bag is heavy!
Are you saving her? Why?
Wh— who is this? Why's she sleeping?

.. friend?
She's —my—

Is he really okay?
Whoa... is that his blood?!
Fight... when you're already so beaten up...?
W... wait, where are you going?!
...to fight...
Fi...?!
wait
What was the "?" for?
"She's my.. friend?"
52
Hey! You!

Kimi no Kakera

Chapter Two Part Three End

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Kimi no Kakera

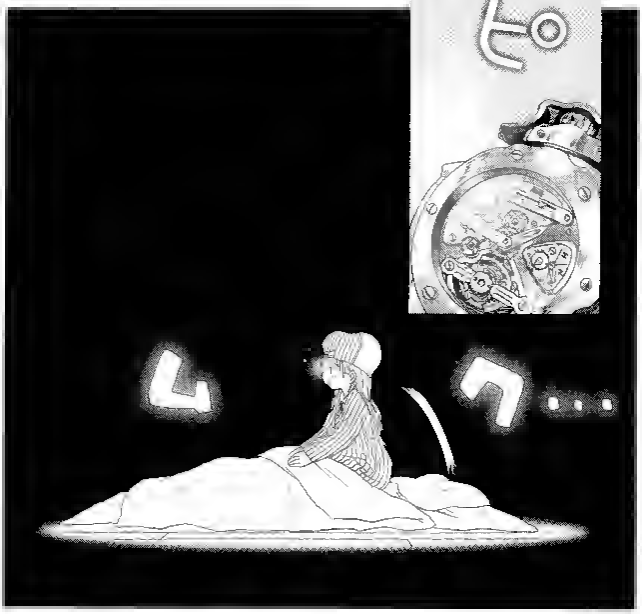
Chapter Three

「きみのカケラ」

LOOK FOR ONE PIECE TO THE FUTURE OF YOURS

第三章

*Scanned by Snoopy
*Translated by Stephen Paul
*Edited by StaraKm
Joint Project of http://www.snoopycool.com & http://www.mangascreener.com

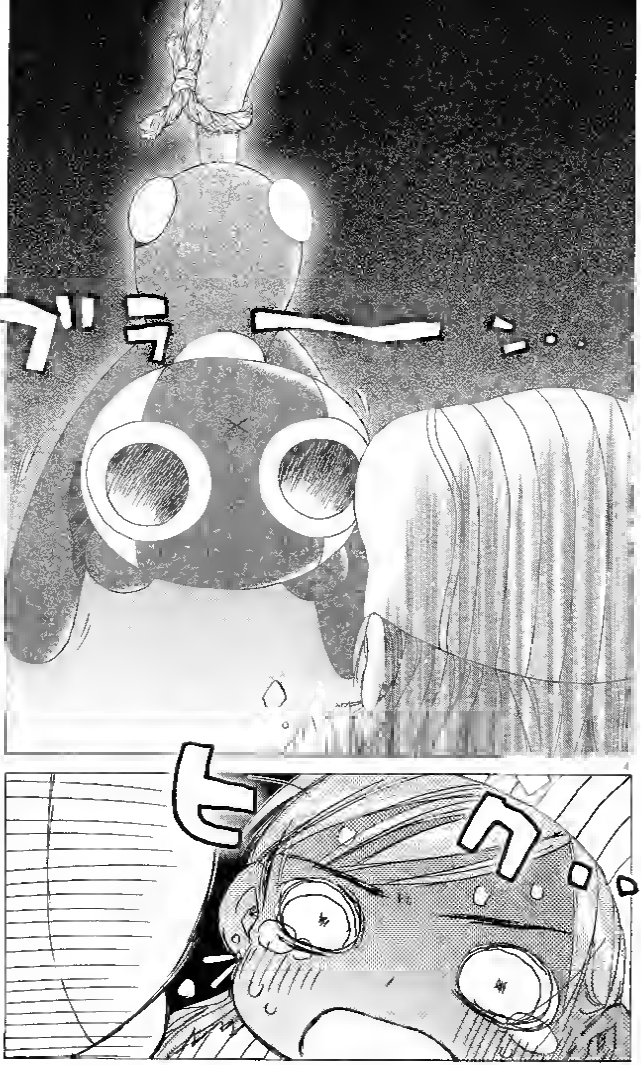

ヒロ
ム ク…

Wow... what a creepy dream...
It really was a weird dream—

Looking for a sun!
I wanna go...
I was chased by the Warmonger Tribe, and fell off the cliff down to the Lower World.
We are actually searching for something called a "hitogata."

Oh gosh why am I blushing over a stupid dream ?
It's morning I've got to wash my face draw some water prepare breakfast and attend to my morning duties
I'd better hurry or Gramma will be angry

3
Oh no!
Can't stand around, I'd better roll up the futon or Gramma will...
Still...
It was a LITTLE exciting I guess...
Why don't we go looking for a "sun"?!


ブラーン…
トン…

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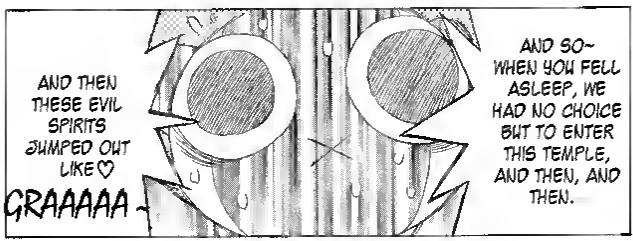
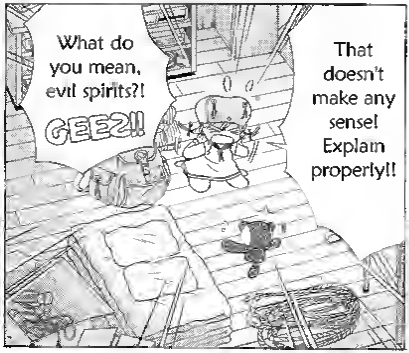
ﾐｯ
-:UGYAAAAAA:-


AND THEN THESE EVIL SPIRITS JUMPED OUT LIKE♡
GRAAAAA~
AND SO~ WHEN YOU FELL ASLEEP, WE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ENTER THIS TEMPLE, AND THEN, AND THEN.

AND THEN THE WARMONGERS BUSTED IN LIKE
BROOOOOM
AND WENT
BLAAARGH...
AND THEN SHIRO WAS LIKE
GRARARA
AND WENT
FWOOM~

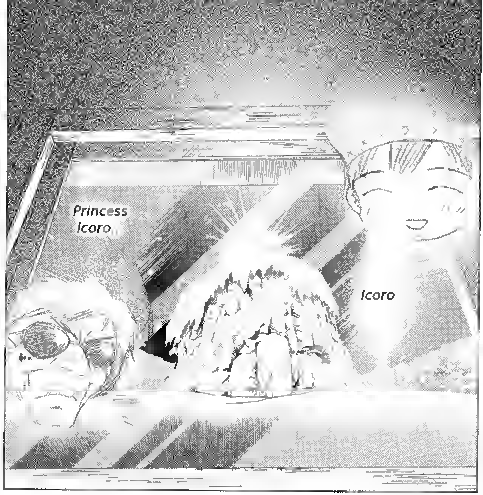
Why are we locked up in here?!
Where am I?


What do you mean, evil spirits?!
GEEZ!!
That doesn't make any sense! Explain properly!!

Where did he go...?
My f... friend... Shiro...
one night and already my only friend is gone.

And wh where...
Where is

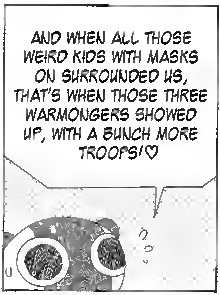
S... stop it I don't want to hear you saying these mean things
IT WAS LIKE HE HAD COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN WHO WE WERE!
THAT HEARTLESS LITTLE VERMIN!♡
I DON'T KNOW~ HE JUST DISAPPEARED AND LEFT US BEHIND!
You're LYING!!
I know Shiro is forgetful, but that just CAN'T be true!
7
He's the first person
I've ever called a friend too
who answered "friend."
Because you're the first person



It wasn't a dream it was real

I actually left the royal domain...

I can never go back...

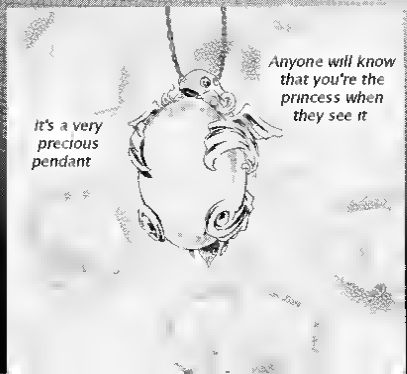

AND WHEN ALL THOSE WEIRD KIDS WITH MASKS ON SURROUNDED US, THAT'S WHEN THOSE THREE WARMONGERS SHOWED UP, WITH A BUNCH MORE TROOPS!♡

THIS IS WHAT YOU GET FOR LETTING SHIRO TRICK YOU!
Don't ask m..! I don't know what to do...!
But... but... I didn't...!

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?! AT THIS RATE, THEY'LL BE CHASING US FOREVER!♡
I see... so they were after the "Hitogata," after all.

Ah...
I mean
And after all
I lost it when we fell down to the Lower World
Listen to me Icoro

What should I do... I only lied about my necklace "piece" being a "Hitogata" to keep my brother safe


It's a very precious pendant
Anyone will know that you're the princess when they see it

This little piece has been handed down for generations
See this "piece" of Mommy?

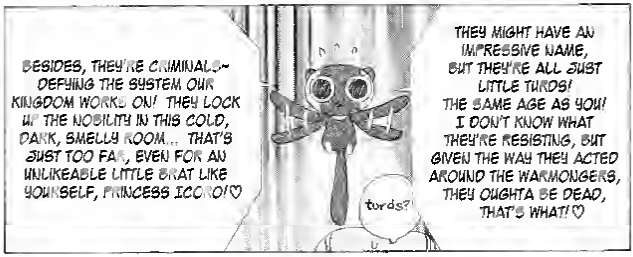
ICORO!!
PRINCESS
Each of these pendants are unique.
They are irreplaceable.
So how can you forget such an important thing on your washstand?!
They are shunned by their people and cast out for eternity
In this country, those without these "pieces" are not treated as human beings
If you were to lose this most valuable object, Princess Icoro...
The princess's piece is an especially important artifact created at the birth of our kingdom.
They can also indicate one's status or rank
Each tribe has their own particular shape

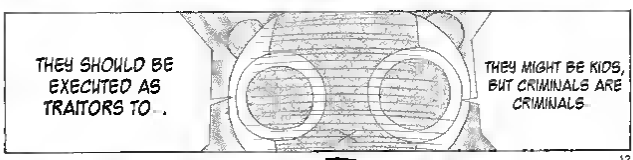
You would become an "inhuman creature"!

How could I have lost my piece like that ...?
That's right I have committed a fatal mistake
Waahh Waaahhh
"Inhuman creature" sounds really really scary

WE ESCAPED FROM THE WARMONGERS BECAUSE THEY SHOWED US A SECRET PASSAGE! ♡
AND THEN WE GOT CAUGHT BY THOSE MASKED KIDS, WHO CALL THEMSELVES THE RESISTANCE!

I showed it to those weird Warmongers... and then I just LOST it..
what?


BESIDES, THEY'RE CRIMINALS~ DEFYING THE SYSTEM OUR KINGDOM WORKS ON! THEY LOCK UP THE NOBILITY IN THIS COLD, DANK, SMELLY ROOM... THAT'S JUST TOO FAR, EVEN FOR AN UNLIKEABLE LITTLE BRAT LIKE YOURSELF, PRINCESS ICONO!♡
tor ds?
THEY MIGHT HAVE AN IMPRESSIVE NAME, BUT THEY'RE ALL JUST LITTLE TURDS! THE SAME AGE AS YOU! I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE RESISTING, BUT GIVEN THE WAY THEY ACTED AROUND THE WARMONGERS, THEY OUGHTA BE DEAD, THAT'S WHAT!♡


THEY SHOULD BE EXECUTED AS TRAITORS TO..
THEY MIGHT BE KIDS, BUT CRIMINALS ARE CRIMINALS

Pretending to be a doll
Did someone say we're traitors that need to be executed?!

Who...?
You better not be sayin' bad things about us, or you'll pay!
We might be kids,
but we're still the RESISOMETHING fighting to protect our town's temple!
We are valiant champions of justice who lay our lives on the line for any noble cause that we can!
We're so great! We're the best!
Yes!!
You mean... Resistance?
RESIS TANCE
oh
Do you understand anything you're talking about?
not really
13

EEEEK !!
Don't tell anyone, or I'll kill you!
First I thought she was cute, now she's just scary
I figured you'd be cold so I brought some coal for the heater
As long as you understand
sorry
Anyways, just don't insult us I want an apology!!
Where were you born? Don't you know anything?
Nope... this is our hideout... we don't have anything fancy like that
Coal? The heaters here don't use Energy?
Now the secret is, this is on a real high hill outside of town so nobody comes around here. That's why it's a secret
Okay, this is a secret between you and me. We're secretly using this building called a "school" as our base.

So then, one day both the Politick Tribe and the Warmonger Tribe came to our town, together...
They told everyone, "You have to leave!"
AHA HA HA HA HA
It's a secret base! Perfect for the secret Resistance!
...sure as hell ain't a secret anymore...
Well the heater is ready. Warm yourself up!
Everyone, grown-ups, kids, even our goats, all got put into camps...
It was pathetic— they did whatever they were told like slaves...
And all the adults eventually broke down.
You can't just say that and have it happen, right? But they kept threatening us...
So they have free rein to do whatever they want in the Lower World ...but why this town?
Does it have anything to do with the "Hitogata" those three soldiers were looking for ?
I see... that explains why this town is empty when it should have been bustling...
And then all the brave kids escaped! Now we're fighting back!!
15
Spirit?!
hey this is cute ♡
Hmmm? Because we have the "Spirit"...
rus
crack
So... why did it happen to your town?

It's warm, and bright...
And makes everyone happy...

Yeah! It lives in the giant stone the temple you broke into houses
Our town's Guardian Spirit ..

Yes it made people happy in the days of old
Icoro is the sun really that warm and bright?
Huh? Isn't that
Gee I wish I had a sun

That's what they say! Although I don't remember it all, cause I heard it when I was a baby...
Uh... uh...

Just wait Mataku when I grow up I'll get one for you
Could it be ?!
Yay!
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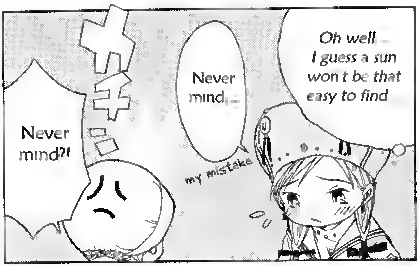
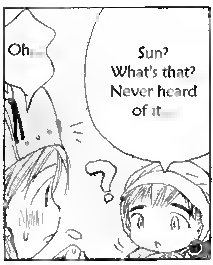
Is that thing called a "sun"?!
Hey, is that...?!


Never mind?!
Never mind...
my mistake
Oh well... I guess a sun won't be that easy to find

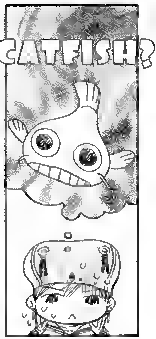

Oh...
Sun? What's that? Never heard of it...

17

So mighty that the bad guys are trying to use it to shoot off a great big huge gigantic
CATFISH!
Don't make fun of me! The Spirit's power is great and mighty!

...Yona... I told you not to tell any outsiders about the "stone"...
I- Imza...

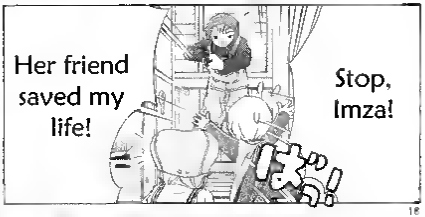
YONA!
The stone holds amazing power and—

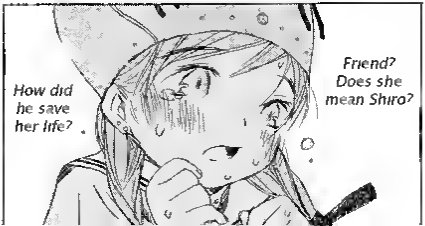

CATFISH?!

We can't let anyone who knows the secret of the stone live!!
Move, Yona!
ジャキッ!

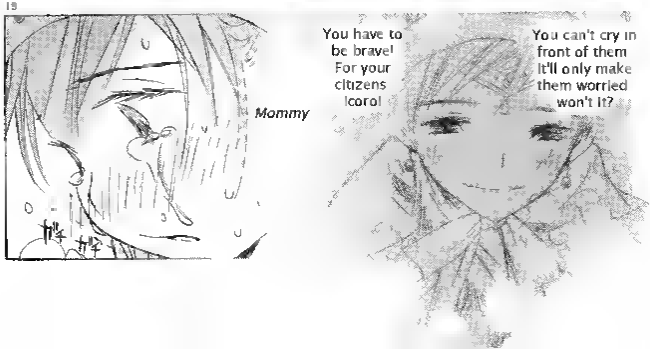
H-huh?
You're kidding, right?!
ビクッ!

...all right then You can do what you want with her, Yona
GEEZ
She's my guest so—


Her friend saved my life!
Stop, Imza!
ばっ!

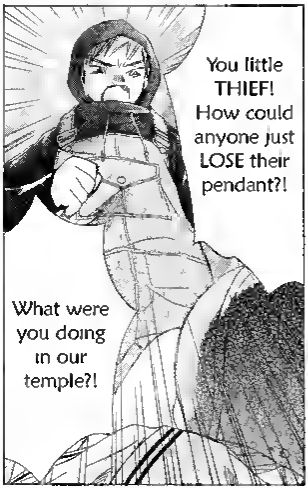

How did he save her life?
Friend? Does she mean Shiro?

What is WRONG with these kids?! They're going to kill me...!
Ack...
not again
If anyone's gonna kill her, it's gonna be ME!!
A knife...?!
A k-k-k-knife..
And you can only laugh for the happiness of your people
A princess can only cry for the sake of her people
Waaahh!
were you bullied again Icoro?
Mommy
Mommy this must be punishment for having a dream


Mommy
You have to be brave! For your citizens Icoro!
You can't cry in front of them It'll only make them worried won't it?

K...
K...
I am Icoro, princess of this kingdom!! How dare you turn your blades upon me!!
KNAVES!
20
I will forgive you this instance, as you are but children. However, should it happen again
PRIN...
CESS?

Yeah, it must be a real nice one
If you're a princess, show us your piece!
Huh?
Wh-
What?!
BFFF
A princess!
Gyahahaha
I-I-lost it and I-
M-my, my p-
.....
Mine too! It has the embel of the proud Nakie people!!
Look! Mine has the emblem of the proud Nakcha people on it
Oh no and I lost it
4ヤリ
カ!!!


You little THIEF! How could anyone just LOSE their pendant?!
What were you doing in our temple?!

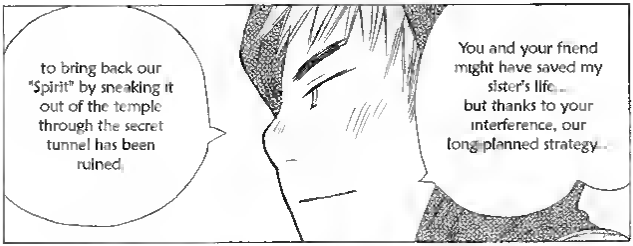
Hya...
Wha
Ah...
Huh?

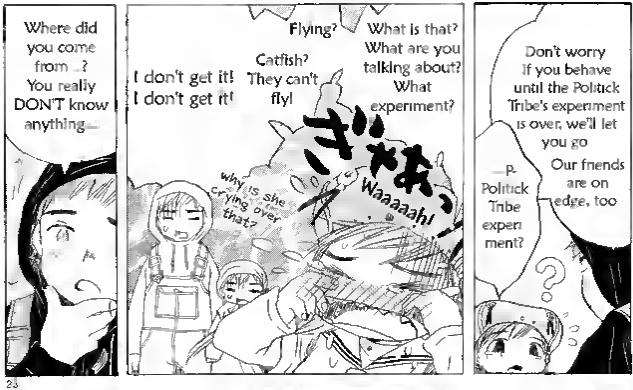
Waaa!
Or I'll kill you, false princess!!
Speak truth-fully! NOW!!

Sorry for locking you up in here.
I don't know how much this little blabbermouth told you yet— We're at an extremely important time.

This is my sister, Yona.
I'm Imza, leader of the Resistance—

Okay, fine.
Imza!
don't hurt her!


to bring back our "Spirit" by sneaking it out of the temple through the secret tunnel has been ruined.
You and your friend might have saved my sister's life... but thanks to your interference, our long-planned strategy...


Where did you come from...? You really DON'T know anything...
I don't get it! I don't get it!
Flying?
Catfish? They can't fly!
What is that? What are you talking about? What experiment?
Why is she crying over that?
Waaaaah!
Don't worry if you behave until the Politick Tribe's experiment is over, we'll let you go
Our friends are on edge, too
...p. Politick Tribe experiment?

to put a giant catfish into space with the power of the Spirit!
It's an experiment...

What they're trying to do.
What are the Politicks and Warmongers doing?!
Catfish...? Spirit?!
But we know that we're right, and they're wrong!!
We're not real smart cause we can't go to school...
A demonic experiment that defies the gods.
Is resurrect the lost "Science"...

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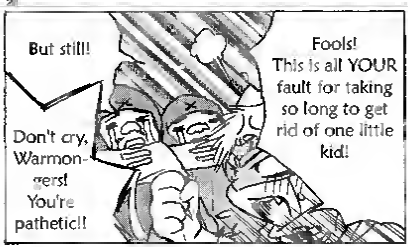
#117
#117

They all look so tough...
- I'm scared
#117
So this is the Captain's unit
Wow...


But still!
Don't cry, Warmongers! You're pathetic!!
Fools! This is all YOUR fault for taking so long to get rid of one little kid!

If they hadn't heard the commotion and come to help, who knows what could have happened...?
And we almost burned to death in that old temple...
I can hear you.

It's just one kid...

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I can hear you!
Totally
Compared to his, our squad is...

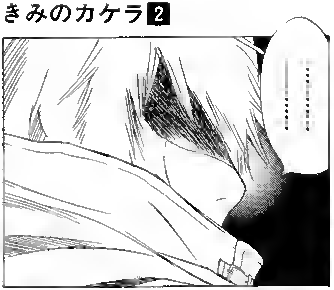
Yeah, all I can see is mountains!
But... where's that you-know-what hiding?

This base is the one undertaking the "Great Experiment," isn't it?
I'm surprised the Captain's base is all the way out in the sticks...
It sure is large...

Mountains to the left, mountains to the right...
IDIOT!
They're hiding it, of course! It's a huge experiment that could change the course of our kingdom!
No, you're an idiot! Don't act like you know what you're talking about. You didn't even go to school!
Neither did you!

26

Yikes...
It's hard to believe that we were so close to almost ruining that grand experiment... scary
We could be court-martialed...
But who would have thought that old temple held something so important to it?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The Captain called for you himself, didn't he?
What's wrong, Commander? We have to hurry—

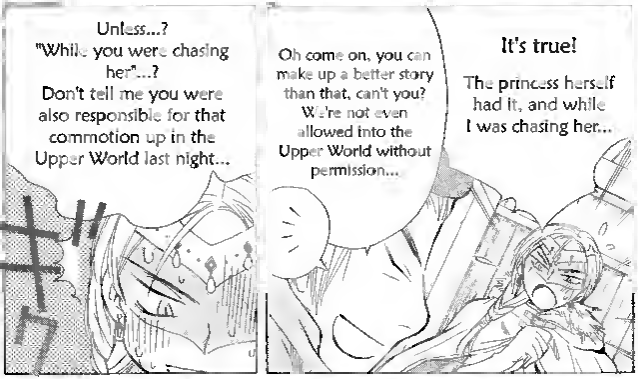
Hey... why don't you guys come with me, after all?

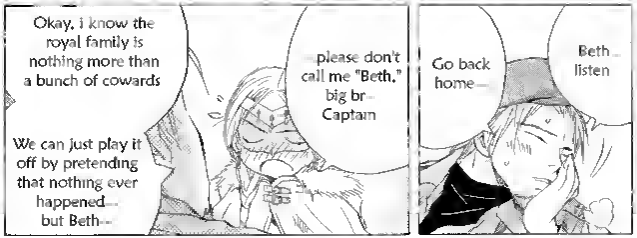
Is that you, Major? Come in!
AND it was your idea to invade the temple!
you traitors.
It was YOUR idea to go search for the "Hitogata" in the forbidden royal grounds!
Why not?! You're my soldiers aren't you?! Obey your commanding officer's orders!!
No way— If he's gonna chew you out, don't drag us into it!
G— gimme a break! I didn't think it was going to turn into such a disaster! I mean—
Put—

And?
Is it true that you started this ruckus in my territory, Major?
31
Hahahaha, well, I must say that even I was surprised that my allies would come and attack a critical location within my own borders!
... yes.
gross...
Ehehehe yes I— I didn't think that run down old temple was so important.

HUH?!
Is your duty to play around with those KIDS in the Resistance?!
N.. no, sir...
SILENCE!! Your duty is to find a "Hitogata"!
Y... Yes, sir!
I found the Hitogata!
I...
B... but listen!
32
カチン
That's not funny! How could you find it that quickly? Shut up.
What?
So how would a little girl like you...
The Warmongers and Politicks have turned this country upside down searching for it.

If the royalty had it, why would we have to go through all this trouble searching for it?
Hah!
So I ..
I figured it out! The... the royalty had it!


Unless...?
"While you were chasing her"...?
Don't tell me you were also responsible for that commotion up in the Upper World last night...
Oh come on, you can make up a better story than that, can't you? We're not even allowed into the Upper World without permission...
It's true!
The princess herself had it, and while I was chasing her...

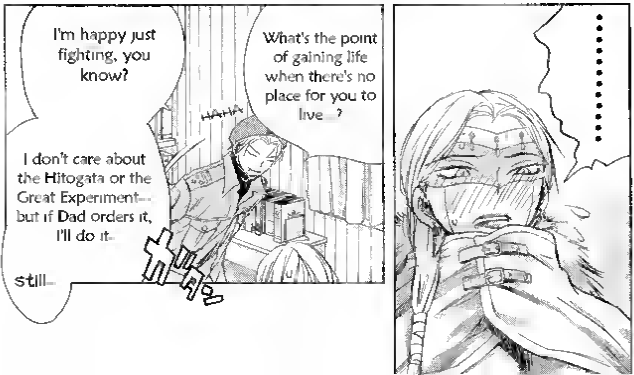

Okay, I know the royal family is nothing more than a bunch of cowards
We can just play it off by pretending that nothing ever happened... but Beth--
...please don't call me "Beth," big br- Captain
Go back home--
Beth... listen

worrying Dad so much. .
You shouldn't be...

Even Dad.
Nobody knows what it actually looks like
even exist?
Besides, does this Hitogata thing...
The Politick Tribe keeps bugging Dad to find it, but they never tell us anything substantial about it.
Last year it was still in transit when that train accident happened and it disappeared. We don't even know if it was real or not...
34
HA HA HA HA
Wouldn't that make our dad just a senile old man?
And they're just trying to find it so they can survive for a little while longer...
Maybe not even the highest of their members knows what it is...

We are only born to fight and die— It is our fate.
I told you he's going senile
We don't have a future to begin with It's just—
His Excellency the general only joined hands with those power-mad Politicians for the sake of our future...
D... don't make fun of Papa!

STUPID.


I'm happy just fighting, you know?
What's the point of gaining life when there's no place for you to live...?
HAHHA
I don't care about the Hitogata or the Great Experiment— but if Dad orders it, I'll do it.
still—
.....

Seriously Beth, you shouldn't be risking everything if all you want is the accomplishment.
If we are done talking, may I have your leave?
I have a Hitogata-carrying princess to catch, so
Thank you for the warning, CAPTAIN!
CAPTAIN!
I don't like that thing, either... It smells fishy to me...
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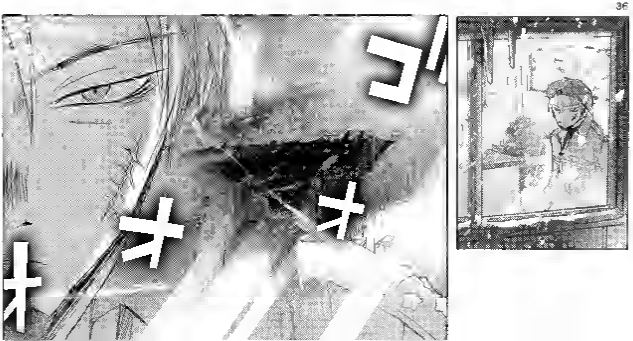
The princess has the "Hitogata"...? Impossible...
She looks like her... such a shrew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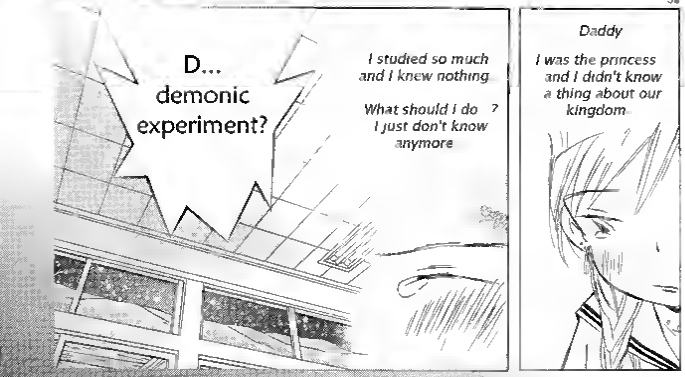
What a monster...
A "Flying Whale"...
I am a proud and mighty child of the Warmonger Tribe!
Curse him! Curse him!! I've never been so insulted before!
With the Hitogata we will no longer be destined to die out.
I must catch those kids! They've got to be nearby!

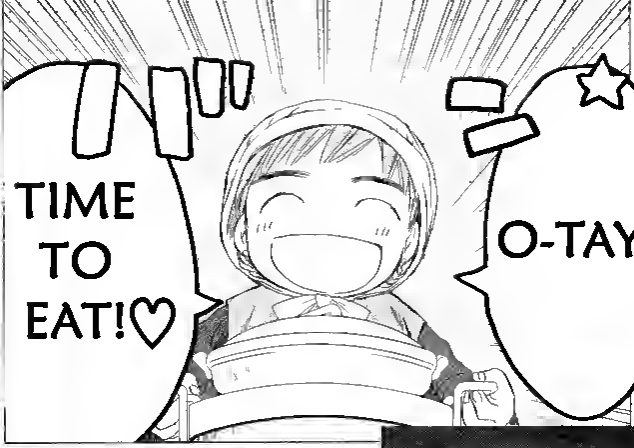
If this is a dream, I wanna wake up.
I wanna go back home
Sniff. Sniff. What's going on here?
PRINCESS IS GETTING HOMESICK, AND WITH US ON THE RUN IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THERE'S ANY LIGHT ON THE HORIZON...
she's gloomy enough as it is...
OH BOY. THIS SUKE IS A LOAD OF TROUBLE WE LANDED OUR-SELVES IN...


D... demonic experiment?
I studied so much and I knew nothing
What should I do ? I just don't know anymore
Daddy
I was the princess and I didn't know a thing about our kingdom

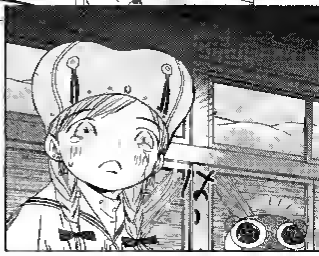
What do you mean by "catfish"? What does it have to do with that Spirit of yours?
Don't you remember the proclamation the Politick Tribe had a while ago?
That's right One to revive the lost "sciences "

Huh...? How can that be...?
It's a plan that began with the king and is now being carried out by the Politicks and Warmongers...
All we know is that it looks like a giant catfish.
Well, we weren't educated, so we don't know what that huge thing really is...
All we can do is fight!
Our town was destroyed to create that thing... that's why...
Castle town?
Adults?
Nobility?
How could that... what are the adults doing?
B... but... this is the nobility's castle town, isn't it?
Yone! Knock it off.
The nobility hasn't done a single thing for us!
You're so STUPID!

Daddy did you know this was happening?
Why didn't you save your people in need ?
The mayor and everyone in the town hall was killed
Huh...
And nothing ever came out of that! The king just keeps lazing about in his castle in the Upper World!
Huh...?
The mayor sent appeal after appeal to the king saying, "Save us! Save us!"
Wha wha?
They massacred us!
All the smart adults who were against them turning our town into an experiment were killed!
Was that a lie ?
I hate Daddy, I hate Shiro I hate everyone...!
I can t take it anymore! Everyone's a liar...!
Icaro I want to show the people of our kingdom the future
by solving the mysteries of the legendary "sun"

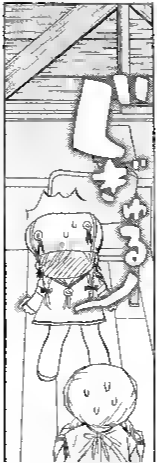

TIME TO EAT!♡
O-TAY!

So I brought some food!
I thought you must be hungry, with nothing but tea to drink.



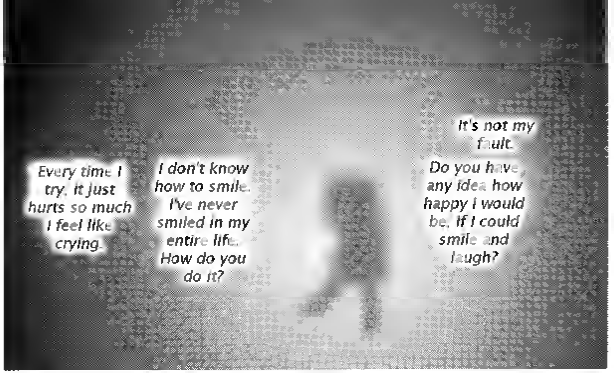
41

Ahahahaha!
I bet you ARE hungry. If your tummy-tum growls when you said "food"!

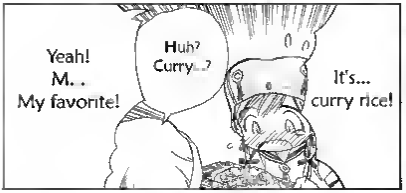


I don't want food...
Not hungry...

はははははは
……!
42
はははは
Although we only have so much, hahahaha
C'mon, eat up! As much as you can!
Pathetic e princess with her stomach growling
Lucky
I wonder if all kids in the Lower World are like this
She sure laughs a lot
Don't play with her or you'll catch the Hitogata too
Talk about ominous
That s what kids who don't have all their emotions like crying and laugh ing are called
The royal family must be doomed with a daughter like that
She's a Hitogata
What kind of princess doesn't even smile?
What's a Hitogata?


Every time I try, it just hurts so much I feel like crying.
I don't know how to smile. I've never smiled in my entire life. How do you do it?
It's not my fault.
Do you have any idea how happy I would be, if I could smile and laugh?

Helloooo?
I mean... I sure wish I...
Hey...

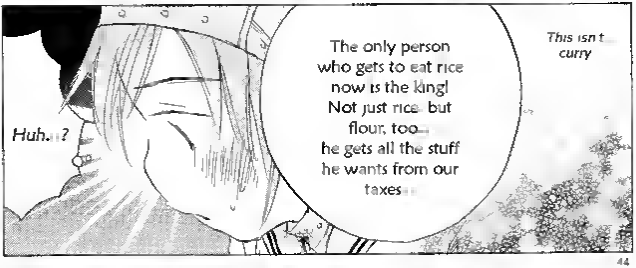

Yeah! M.. My favorite!
Huh? Curry...?
It's... curry rice!

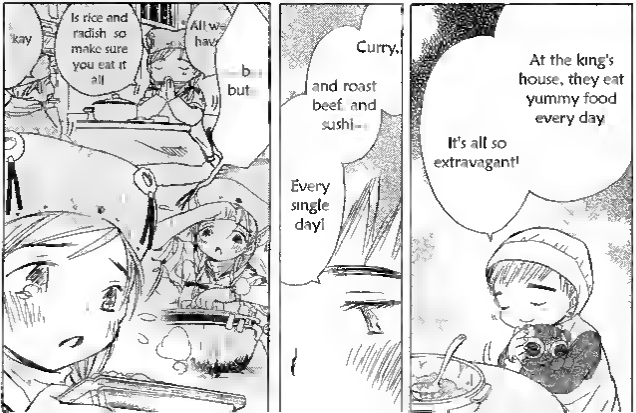
Eat up! Your food's gonna get cold!!
What's with the long face?
Oh! Sorry I was just...
Ah!

Huh?
Pfff!
Ohhh I haven't had curry since New Year's

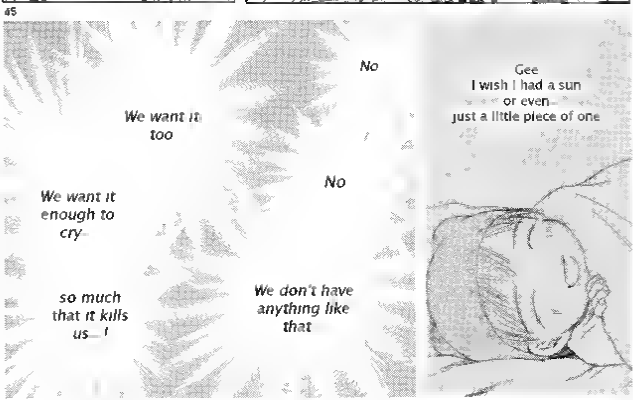
—Kyahahahahahahahahaha!—
What? Who?
Why?
Huh?

It's ground-up corn topped with a curry made from potato starch
You see that?
It's pretty good, try it! This is like a feast for us
You don't know ANYTHING, do you...?
Uh...
How would we get rice?!
You're so DUMB!


Huh...?
The only person who gets to eat rice now is the king! Not just rice, but flour, too... he gets all the stuff he wants from our taxes...
This isn't curry


Okay
Is rice and radish so make sure you eat it all
All we have is...
but...
Curry,
and roast beef and sushi...
Every single day!
At the king's house, they eat yummy food every day
It's all so extravagant!

Back then, the "sun" made the outside as bright as a fairy... and as warm as a heater.
It made the world filled with hope for the future, and people lived long lives.
Everyone lived happily, believing in the day to come...
W-well...
No...
You're eating gifts given to us straight from the people! Don't complain about it!
Shush!
Icoro, is this all our food for today...? I'm still hungry
Bear with it! Here, you can have some of mine!
No...
No...
N-no...
Just like a heater...
And you know what else? Inside the castle it's bright, and warm...
45

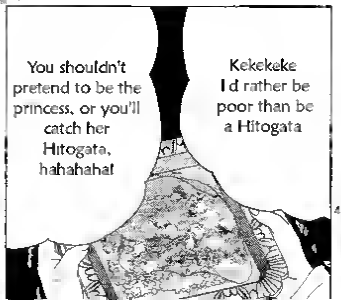

We want it too
No
We want it enough to cry...
No
so much that it kills us...!
We don't have anything like that
Gee
I wish I had a sun
or even...
just a little piece of one

That she's a Hitogata who's never smiled once in her life.

I heard the princess is so spoiled...
But I'm not jealous at all...

...no...

Quick, eat up while it's still warm...
Oops Imza will yell at me again if I talk to much


You shouldn't pretend to be the princess, or you'll catch her Hitogata, hahahaha!
Kekekeke I'd rather be poor than be a Hitogata

...I can't
eat this stuff.
Huh?
Huh?
We're putting our final plan into motion tonight!!
Oh well, this is our last meal anyways, don't worry about it!
47
.....
Huh?
Uh-
Y you don't like it? I'm sorry
I sure like it though
FRU-CESS?

So now we're gonna risk it all and make a surprise attack!
Huh?
And kill all of 'em.... bang bang bang
What?!

Tonight's plan was a failure and the temple got burned down.
Yep
Final...?
so they took the Spirit back to their base...
The Spirit was taken away ? Because of us?

And then, and then... we're gonna get our town and get Mommy and Daddy back, and...

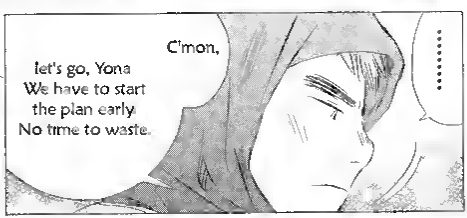
Uh-huh!!
Yep!!
Do you mean... the Politicks and Warmongers...?
What is she talking about ? Kids can't do that all by themselves
J—just you kids?

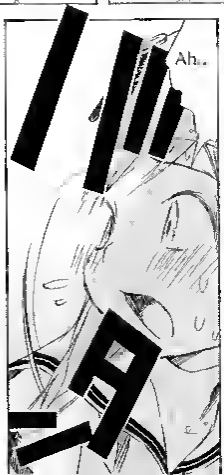
Yona...! You'd better shut your little trap...!!
Aaaaah! I'm sorry, Imza!

... don't kill me...

And... and I didn't eat any of your food... on purpose...
T... tha... that wasn't my fault...!
I didn't... ask her... she just started talking!
Please... please...

za
Ah...
Imza...


C'mon, let's go, Yona We have to start the plan early. No time to waste.
.....


Ah...

Yona got some of her friends' portions for you by saying that it was her fault you were feeling sad.
Your food...
Ah...
Imza...

SOb
SOb
SOb
SOb
SOb
SOb
Wahh
How can my life be so pathetic when I'm the princess?
Because I can't laugh like a regular human?
Because I'm a Hitogata?
Wahhhhhh
I can't take this anymore
Wahhhhh!
IT'S DANGEROUS, SITTING THERE
Wahhhhhh
WHAT'S WRONG, PRINCESS ICORO? WHY HAVE YOU CLIMBED ALL THE WAY UP THERE?
Hic
Wahhh
Ahhhhhh

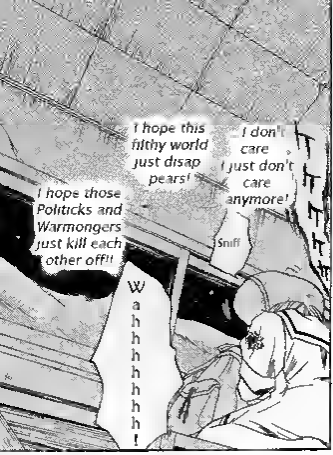
What is the "Hitogata" that Shiro's searching for?

Does it have anything to do with the Hitogatas like me, who can't smile... or Shiro, who can't cry?

Why are the adults searching for this Hitogata... too...?

The country's only going to die underneath the snow... anyways...

Hitogata


I hope those Politicks and Warmongers just kill each other off!!
I hope this filthy world just disap pears!
I don't care I just don't care anymore!
Sniff
Wahhhhhhhh!

I WAS WORRIED FOR A WHILE, BUT NOW IT LOOKS LIKE WE CAN GO BACK TO THE HIGHER WORLD♡
PRINCESS ICORO, TELL ME! WHY ARE YOU CRYING SO?

I want to go home!!

I don't care about the "sun" anymore

I don't want it!

You makin' those salty thingers again?

...so THEN...
!!
54
And they said I was their foe, so I went WHAM CRASH BANG and beat 'em up.
those whatchamacallem tribes came busting in like ROWRRRRRR
LIKE ROWWWWWWRRR
more of those whosits tribes came in like
HIYAAAA
and then it was like
GHAAAA...
Somehow this fire went up like
FWOOOM
all of a sudden, and the next thing I knew...

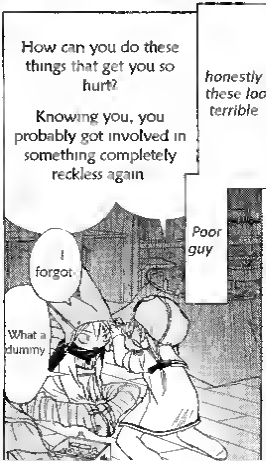
Ack...
PRINCESS, PLEASE SETTLE DOWN! IF YOU GET TOO EXCITED, YOUR NOSE WILL BEGIN BLEEDING AGAIN!

What is WRONG with you two?! GEEZ!
You're not making any sense at all!

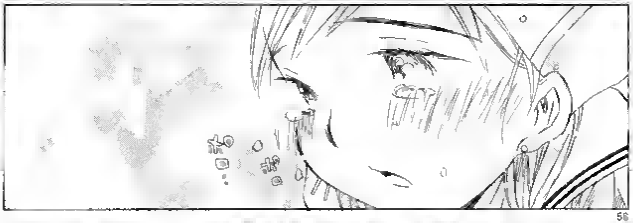
I don't want to hear that coming from you!!
oh yeah?
Boy, your nose sure bleeds a lot

55

dummy
did it hurt?


How can you do these things that get you so hurt?
Knowing you, you probably got involved in something completely reckless again
honestly these look terrible
Poor guy
I forgot
What a dummy

Just be quiet and let me fix you up!
Umph!!
Oh my gosh look at these wounds!!



58

Why is it...

that whenever Shiro smiles... my heart aches so much?

Is it because I'm jealous that I've never been able to smile because I'm a Hitogat...?

Or,

Is it because those smiles... seem so horribly sad to me...

Ugh.

Tears?! Lucky you!
This is so disgusting

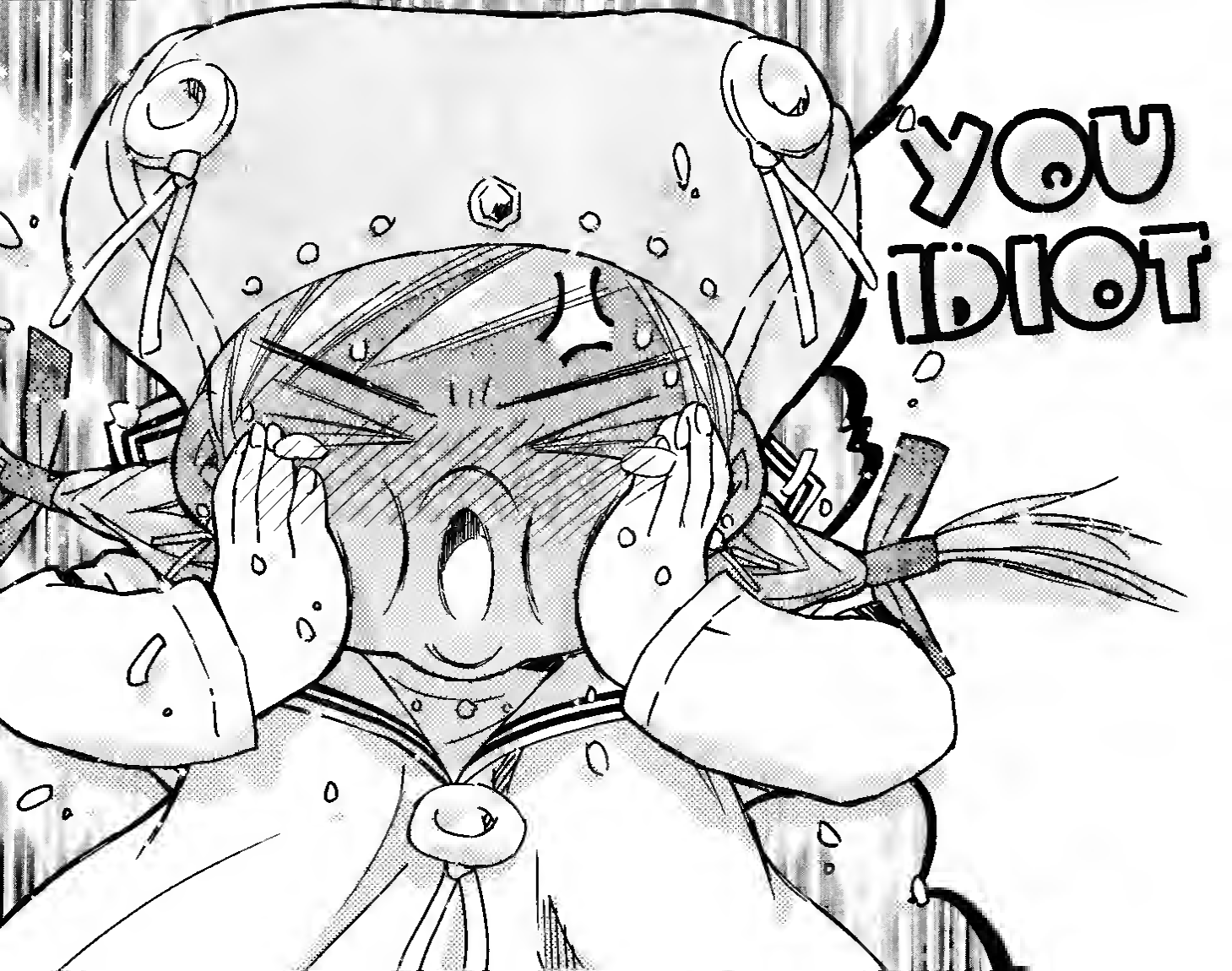
How DO you make those things?!
YUMMY!
—I told you last night, these are called tears
he did this before, didn't he

57

There are so many things I want to say to him!
Why? Why can't I be honest in front of Shiro?
Shiro
Um I—

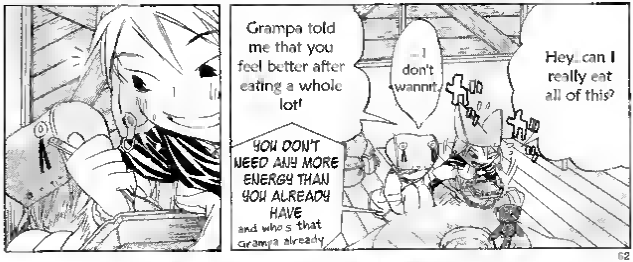
WA
You're so filthy!
HHH
WOWWW
They're so sparkling and pretty!

Anyways, can I eat this stuff here?!
Huh? What'd you say?
He's concentrating on the food...
He's not listening
I was... so lonely
Um, I...
GYAAA GYAAA GYAAA
You got a pet under there?!
What was that sound?!
Shiro... I... Listen!
Yikes!
Huh? You tryin' to tell me something...?
Is it a turtle? Or a cow? Oh, I know, a frog! Ribbity-ribbit frog! You got a frog inside your frog pantsies?! Wow, that's so neat! That's so cool!
You sure are weird! Whatcha got under there?!
No... listen to me...
Hey! Lemme see.
Shiro, I...


YOU
IDIOT

Yummeeee

UH-OH, THERE SHE GOES AGAIN WITH THE SULKING... STILL A CHILD


Grampa told me that you feel better after eating a whole lot!
...I don't wannit.
Hey, can I really eat all of this?
YOU DON'T NEED ANY MORE ENERGY THAN YOU ALREADY HAVE
and who's that Grampa already

So much
So much water coming from her eyes—

WAAA
AAAA
HHHN
!!
WAAH!
So much

……!!
ドクン

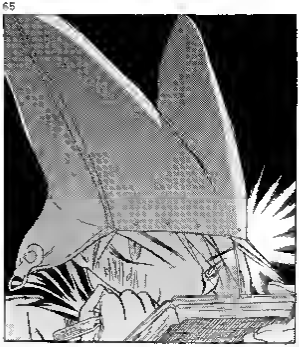
Y-you know what?! I want all the energy I can get!!
ARE YOU EATING MORE?! CUT IT OUT...
HUH?

ガブッ
ガブッ

I'm gonna!
Go for a little run!!

HUH?!

65



W... WHAT ARE OUR NAMES?!

I dunno, but it's important, so I gotta go...
G... GO WHERE?!
SHIRO~! WAIT.!

H... huh?
IT'S THE OPPO-SITE!!
Kuro?
Icoro and
I came here because I could smell the good smell of a friend!!
Sorry! I'm sorry!! I can be forgetful, but but!
YOU SEE, PRINCESS ICORO~ HE HAS COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT YOU! I WAS RIGHT! ♡
Really?
Hmm? Oh?
...OR WAS IT THE SMELL OF CURRY
It's an important promise I made!
Anyways... I have to get going!

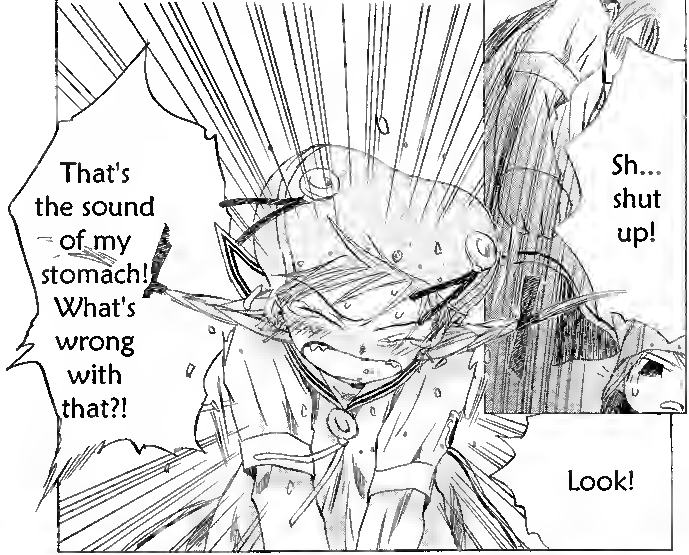
Is this promise that much more important to you than me?

Shiro is it that important to you_?

You're crazy! A promise is a promise, and if I believe in something, then I believe in it!!
YOU CAN'T MAKE A PROMISE ABOUT SOMETHING YOU DON'T KNOW
I don't know! I don't know. I just believe in it!
WHAT'S THIS PROMISE? YOU ALWAYS FORGET EVERYTHING!

What if you're wrong about all the things you hold dear in your heart ?

If we're wrong, we can always look again!
-Guuuuuu-
PFFFF!
What the heck IS that noise?
.....
あはははは
It's like you really do have a frog inside your frog panties
-ahahahahahaha-


That's the sound of my stomach! What's wrong with that?!
Sh... shut up!
Look!

I know it's pathetic and embarrassing, but my stomach will growl like anyone else's when I'm hungry!

What's wrong with that?!
Even a princess gets hungry!
I'm not spoiled at all!

70

What's wrong with that?!
I... I haven't had a single thing to eat since the scraps of last night's dinner!!

Here.
Uh...
If you want it, just say so
Gosh, what a weirdo
Huh? B-but
But...
But...
GULP

Waah!
Ah!
Aah!
W...

Mmf
But...
But...
PRIN-
CESS
But I...

Mmm
Mmm...
Mmmgh!
Ah...

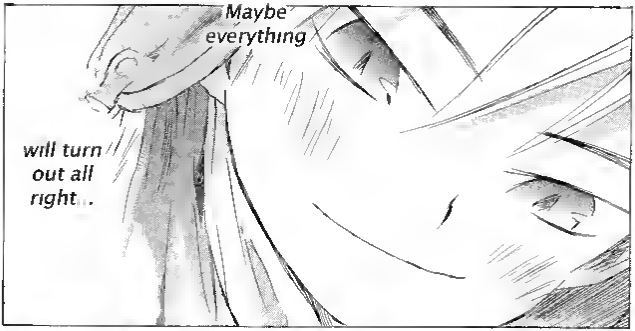
But...
But...

AAH!
Hey, guess what?
But... AAAH ...
Mm... mmmg.
Mgwaaah!

I'll find a "sun," I promise.
And then I'll give it to you.

I wanna go...
Looking for a sun!

Icoro, I wish I had just a little piece of a sun...
And then
B-but
...but what if you can't find it...?
and maybe just a little bit of light would pierce the darkness in my brother's eyes
W-what if-
Maybe then I would be able to smile
What if it turns out you're wrong...?!
Just maybe!
...Shiro...?!



Chapter Three End

Kimi no Kakera

Chapter Four

「きみのカケラ」

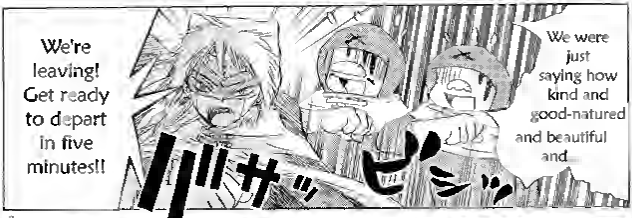
LOOK FOR ONE PIECE TO THE FUTURE OF YOURS

第四章

*Scanned by Snoopy
*Translated by Stephen Paul
*Edited by Starakin
Joint Project of http://www.snoopycool.com & http://www.mangascreener.com

ゴォォ
Man, there's nothing here except for snow, mountains and walls!!
...hey, was there always a mountain over there?
It's so cold! What's the commander doing?
I don't care, I just want to take a nice hot bath and hit the sack!
Yeah... how many days has it been since we came back to base?
Cause she treats us so rough...
2
She just wants to find that Hitogata and show up her brother and all them, right? She really hates to lose--
I wish she would just settle down a bit
BRRRR... COLD...
Too bad She's way hot when she stays quiet~
Yeah, that was cute back there
COME-WITH-ME~
I remember changing her diapers when she was young!
Yeah, she wore diapers up through kindergarten!
~gyahahahahahah~
ギャハハハ

I can hear you...

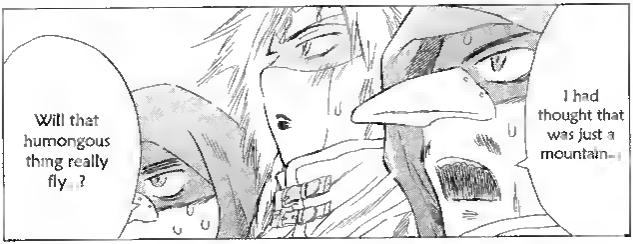

We're leaving! Get ready to depart in five minutes!!
We were just saying how kind and good-natured and beautiful and...

It doesn't matter as long as we bring home the goods first! Now prepare for departure!!
"... but didn't the captain tell you to lay low for a while?

HUH
already ?

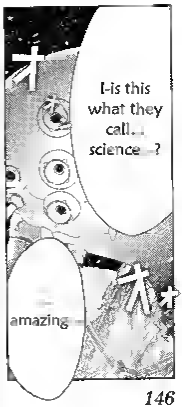
Hmph! How fitting. A piss-reeking place for kids to gather.
I HATE schools!
Yes. It's an old school building outside the remains of the town.
Have you found out where those kids in masks... the Resistance are located?
You should be grateful to even go to kindergarten!
Stop complaining!
We never got to go to school...
...at least you know enough to hate them.
It's time to leave! Now get the tank's engine started!
4
W-w-wh-wh-what's th-th that...
Uhh... C-C Comm...
C'mon, let's go find that Hito...
Ooh, perfect. The wind stopped right when I made that command
Huh? What are you...

So that's the "Whale"—
Wow...


Will that humongous thing really fly...?
I had thought that was just a mountain—

7

This is what will keep us from being wiped out...
Yes...


I-is this what they call... science...?
amazing...

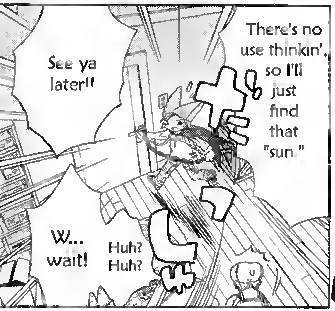
B-but if that white-haired boy is there again...
We've already lost to him three times...
I'm tired of being humiliated by those kids!
Now let's capture the princess!
Y... Yes, Ma'am!
I HAVE to get that Hitogata before anyone else!
I borrowed* something SPECIAL from the Captain in case that happens
* without permission
Not to worry.
6
as long as we have the Hitogata we will not fall to ruin
...you don't want a sun?! Really?

NOW PRINCESS, LET'S GO HOME! PRINCE MATAKU AND MADAM SHAH ARE WORRIED SICK!
BRAT
BRAT THOUGH SHE MAY BE!
SHE IS ACTUALLY OF SUCH HIGH AND NOBLE BIRTH THAT YOU SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED TO SPEAK TO HER,
ohhh
YOU WILL ADDRESS HER AS "PRINCESS ICORO"!!
But you just...

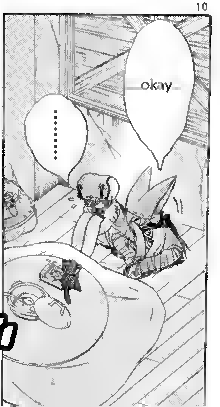
BESIDES, OUR WORLD IS GOING TO DIE OUT SOON ANYWAYS!!
THIS "SUN" IS NOTHING BUT A LEGEND!♡
Hey, you!! Is that true?!
DESIRE FOR THIS "SUN" WAS A TEMPORARY DELUSION! NAY, SIMPLY AN ESCAPE FROM REALITY!♡
THE PRINCESS UNDERSTANDS THIS, BECAUSE SHE IS SMART!!
.....
IT'S WHEN YOU BELIEVE IN SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T EXIST!!
What's a legend?

You know... you know what? I'm real forgetful, so I believe...
in anything that can escape this place, even if just for a little bit...

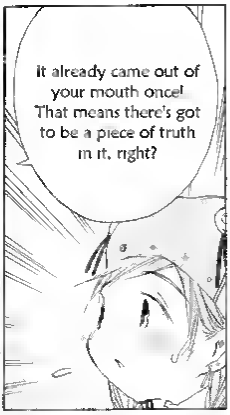
Otherwise I won't know what I'm living for. And I'll just be scared...
Ah...


See ya later!!
There's no use thinkin', so I'll just find that "sun."
W... wait!
Huh? Huh?

That's it!!

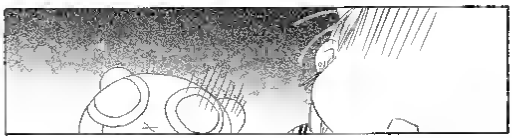

okay...
.....

And you're the only one who can protect that little piece of truth!!
ガシ
チャン


It already came out of your mouth once! That means there's got to be a piece of truth in it, right?

Weird
It came off.

Ah
.....



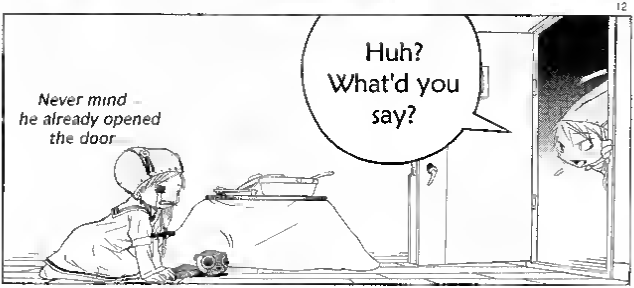
We're... we're stuck in here... they've locked us in...
And there are probably guards...
We can't...

...no, you can't go

So, please? Don't go anywhere Stay here with me

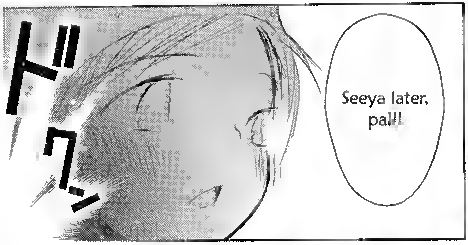
They'll kill us... They said they wouldn't kill us if we stayed put...
And they really will kill us...
As long as we don't get any dangerous ideas...
I... I'm scared...

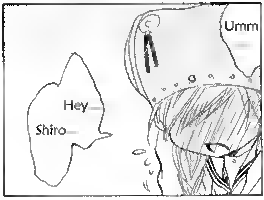
12

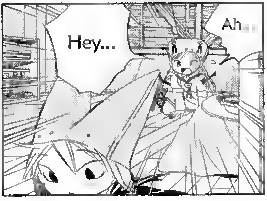

Huh? What'd you say?
Never mind... he already opened the door...

Ah...
Well, I'll be going, then

What's guards? Can you eat a lock?
THERE ARE NO GUARDS, AND HE ALREADY BROKE THE LOCK
Yikes


ドクン
Seeya later, pal!!


Umm
Hey Shiro


Hey...
Ah

I'm scared
Um...
I

Heheh.
Me
too!

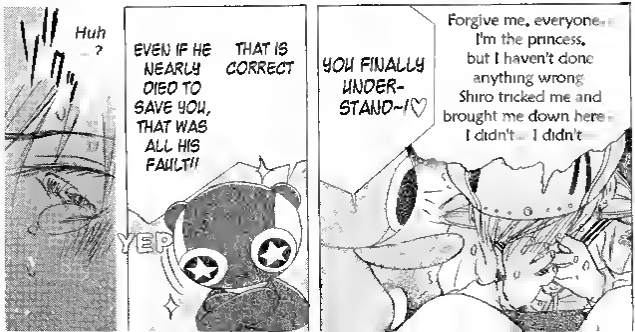
Aren't friends supposed to do that for one another?
I was asking him so nicely...
why... why wouldn't he stay with me?
NYAA~ WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM?! HE WAS TOLD NOT TO GO!!
That's what he gets for leaving me when I'm asleep and being stupid
wait who cares? He's the one who went off and got himself hurt
Yeah! He was hurt really badly...
OH WELL... I WONDER WHAT HE THINKS HE CAN DO, WITH THOSE INJURIES WHAT A FOOL!♡
15
HE'S JUST GOING TO GET HIMSELF CAUGHT AND CUT INTO PIECES ANYWAY! ♡
PRINCESS!! YOU DON'T NEED TO CRY OVER THAT WRETCH!
Wahh...
Aaah!
Aaah!
W a a h h ...
Who cares?
I hate Shiro!
Aah.

Waaah... aaaah!
WAAAAAAAAHH!
PRINCESS ICORO IS TOO KIND, TO SUCH A FILTHY WRETCH...
even though she has no friends...♡
THOSE RESISTANCE BRATS REALLY ARE CHILDREN. ANYONE WOULD KNOW THEIR KAMIKAZE ATTACKS WON'T WORK ON THOSE SOLDIERS.
YOU'D THINK THEY'D WISE UP AFTER SHIRO HAD TO SAVE THEM LAST NIGHT... BUT THEY SEEM TO BE DETERMINED TO DIE... ♡
Huh...?
Shiro...?

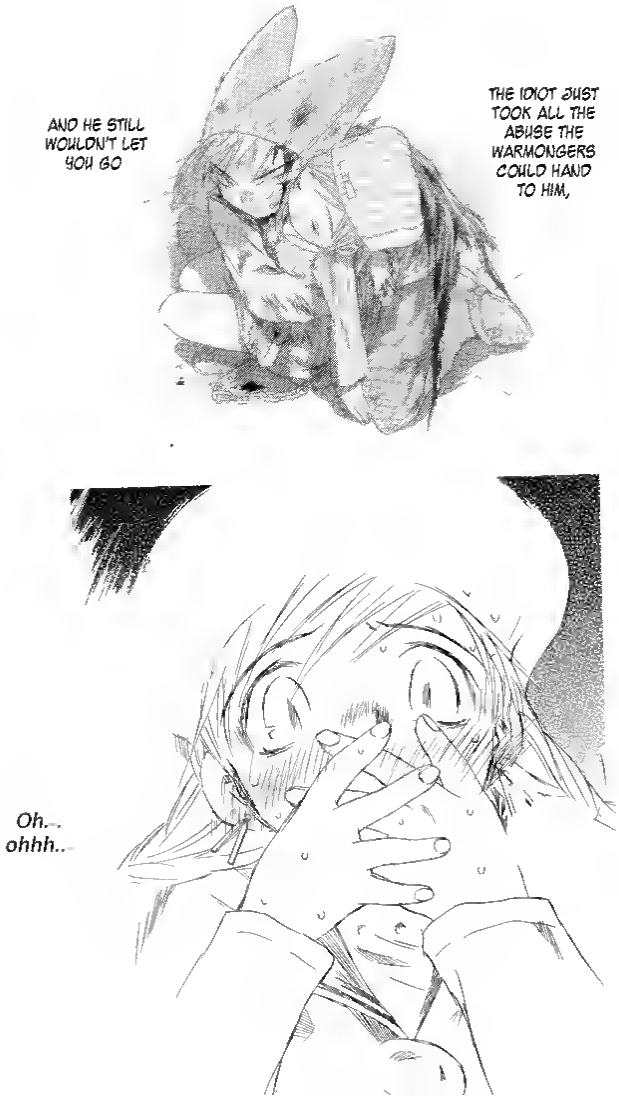
KI KI KI KI KI
OH WELL, I GUESS ORIGINALLY IT WAS OUR FAULT FOR SNEAKING INTO THAT TEMPLE BECAUSE "PRINCESS ICORO FORCED US TO"! ♡
SERVES THEM RIGHT FOR LOCKING ROYALTY UP IN THAT SMALL, DISGUSTING ROOM AND FEEDING YOU THAT AWFUL FOOD.
THEIR TUNNEL PLAN FAILED AND THEY'RE ALL GOING OFF TO BE KILLED BECAUSE THEY WERE RAISED POORLY! ♡
It's...
It's Shiro's fault...
Would you just shut up for a minute

It's all dummy Shiro's fault!! He... he tricked me!
It's not my fault!! None of it...!!
It's Shiro's fault!! Shiro's fault!! Shiro's fault!!
Waaaaaaah!! That stupid, stupid jerk!!
PHIN CCSS

Even though the Upper World is nothing but hardship!! ...I wish I had just followed my role...
I... I didn't want to know about this! All about the Lower World...


Huh ...?
EVEN IF HE NEARLY DIED TO SAVE YOU, THAT WAS ALL HIS FAULT!!
THAT IS CORRECT
YEP
YOU FINALLY UNDER-STAND~!♡
Forgive me, everyone... I'm the princess, but I haven't done anything wrong. Shiro tricked me and brought me down here... I didn't... I didn't...

Get...
AWAY from me!
Oh here, give me that! She's my "friend"!
THE IDIOT ACTUALLY JUMPED INTO A GROUP OF WARMONGERS TO SAVE YOU.♡
Whoaa oaoa?!
HE GOT BEAT UP BECAUSE HE WAS DUMB ENOUGH TO BELIEVE IN THAT GARBAGE.
I MEAN, WHAT IS ALL THAT SAPPY "FRIEND" STUFF ABOUT...?
YOU ARE SO RIGHT, PRINCESS! HE'S JUST A COLOSSAL DUNCE—
I couldn't even breathe
Like it had turned to ice
It was as if someone poured freezing water down my back.


AND HE STILL WOULDN'T LET YOU GO
THE IDIOT JUST TOOK ALL THE ABUSE THE WARMONGERS COULD HAND TO HIM,
Oh... ohhh..

P...
PLEASE,
WAIT,
PRINCESS!!

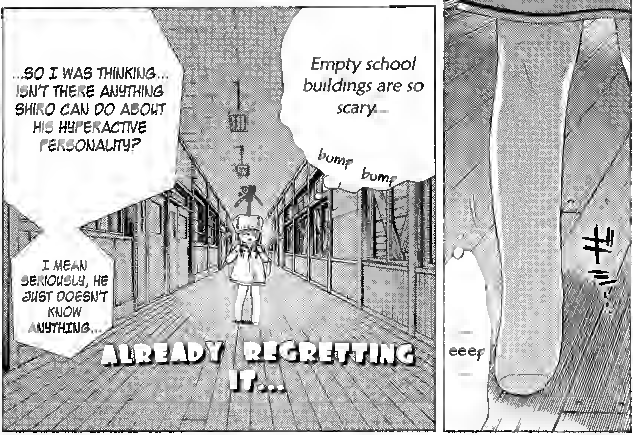
YOU CAN'T STILL BE INTERESTED IN THIS COCKAMAMIE "SHIN" BUSINESS!♡
LOOK HOW MUCH YOU'VE SUFFERED, JUST FROM LEAVING THE ROYAL LANDS FOR A LITTLE WHILE!

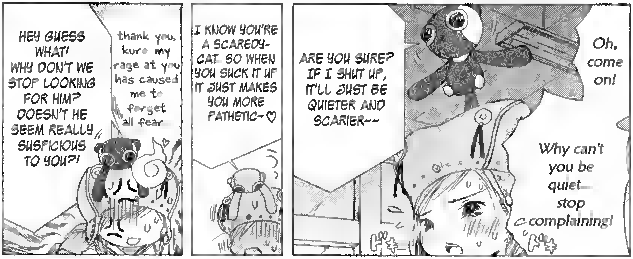
ARE YOU REALLY GOING?!
REALLY?!

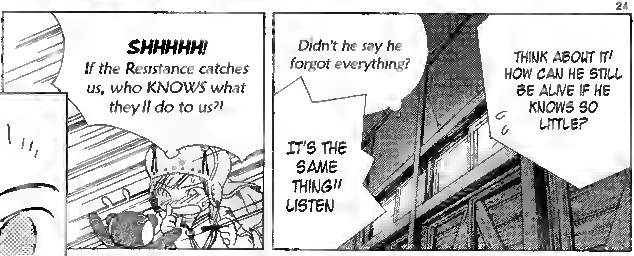
Mataku What are you doing now?
WHY? YOU JUST TOLD SHIRO YOU DIDN'T WANT IT!

Big sister
ドクン ドクン
ドクン ドクン
Big sister is so scared, she wants to cry
But she's really just a useless, trembling coward
So, so scared..
Even now she's scared enough to cry
She's holding it in right now like she usually does in front of you,

I want to cry the most because I hate myself!


...SO I WAS THINKING... ISN'T THERE ANYTHING SHIRO CAN DO ABOUT HIS HYPERACTIVE PERSONALITY?
Empty school buildings are so scary...
bump
bump
I MEAN SERIOUSLY, HE JUST DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING...
ALREADY REGRETTING IT...
eeep

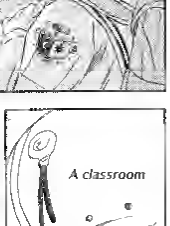

HEY GUESS WHAT! WHY DON'T WE STOP LOOKING FOR HIM? DOESN'T HE SEEM REALLY SUSPICIOUS TO YOU?!
thank you, kuro my rage at you has caused me to forget all fear.
I KNOW YOU'RE A SCAREDY-CAT. SO WHEN YOU SUCK IT UP IT JUST MAKES YOU MORE PATHETIC~♡
ARE YOU SURE? IF I SHUT UP, IT'LL JUST BE QUIETER AND SCARIER~~
Oh, come on!
Why can't you be quiet... stop complaining!

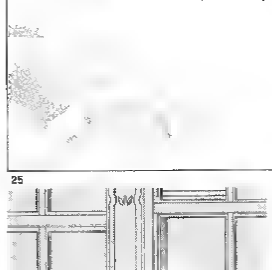

SHHHHH! If the Resistance catches us, who KNOWS what they'll do to us?!
Didn't he say he forgot everything?
IT'S THE SAME THING!! LISTEN
THINK ABOUT IT! HOW CAN HE STILL BE ALIVE IF HE KNOWS SO LITTLE?

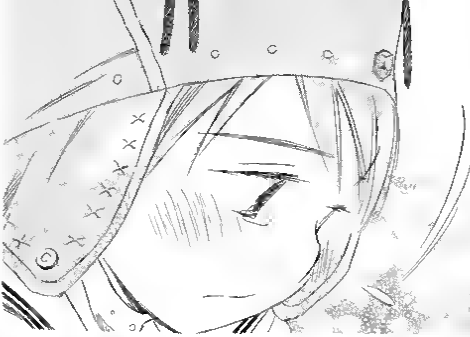
I guess I'll never go back to it

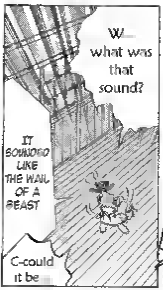
Even though I was in one just yesterday...

It seems so reminiscent






...darn...
I don't have any good memories there anyway...


W...
what was that sound?
IT SOUNDED LIKE THE WAIL OF A BEAST
C-could it be...

GYAA!!

W... WELL, WE CAN STAY IN HERE UNTIL THINGS SETTLE DOWN...

A MONSTER~~~~
T-t-that door over there is open!
HIDE, OR IT'LL KILL US!!

Hyaaa!
What's this?!

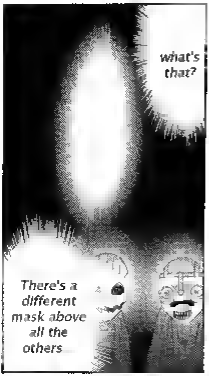
27

SOOPER DOOPER COOL!
Whoa, what are THESE ?!
ah!

THOSE RESISTANCE BRATS WERE WEARING THEM WHEN THEY ATTACKED US IN THE TEMPLE
Are they for some kind of ritual...? No, they're battle masks...

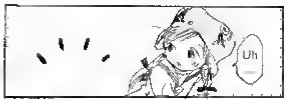
Shut up!!
I THINK YOU'RE MAKING MORE NOISE THAN ANYTHING ELSE HERE, PRINCESS.

Are these...
... masks?

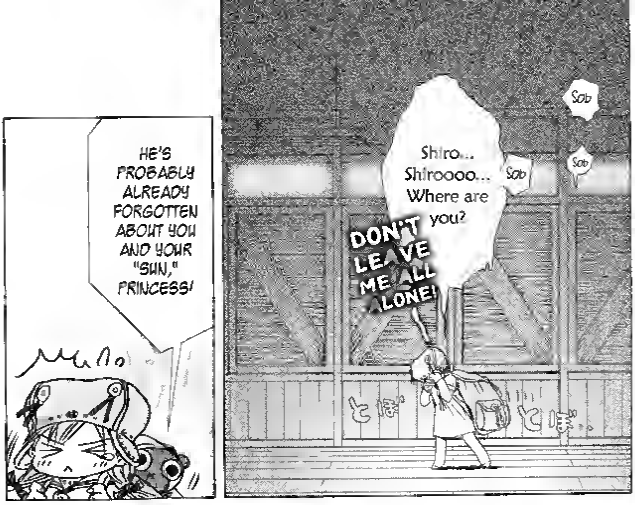

what's that?
There's a different mask above all the others

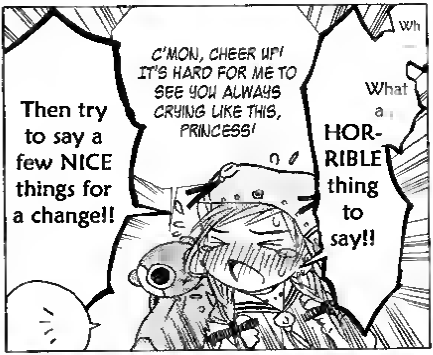
Geez... what am I doing...?

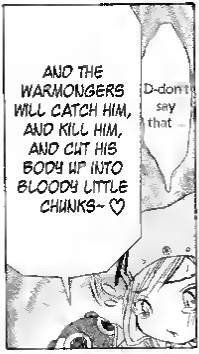
Shiro! No! You have to be quiet!!


Uh...

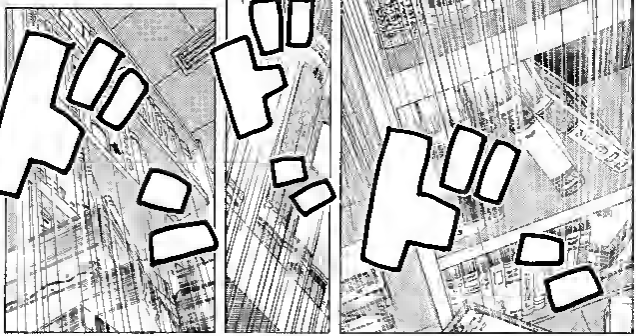
by the candles
they've been keeping it carefully lit
it must be very important...
it's old, but so pretty...

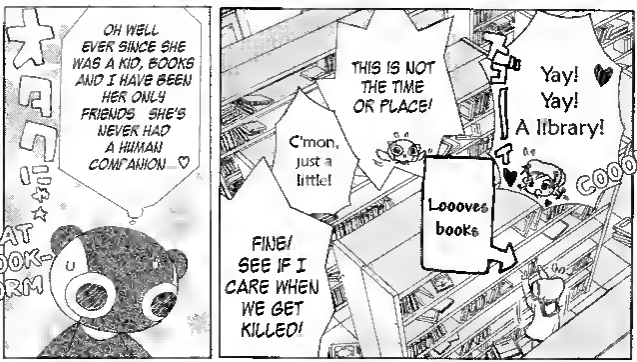

HE'S PROBABLY ALREADY FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOU AND YOUR "SUN," PRINCESS!
Shiro... Shiroooo... Where are you?
Sob
Sob
Sob
DON'T LEAVE ME ALL ALONE!


Then try to say a few NICE things for a change!!
C'MON, CHEER UP! IT'S HARD FOR ME TO SEE YOU ALWAYS CRYING LIKE THIS, PRINCESS!
What a HOR-RIBLE thing to say!!

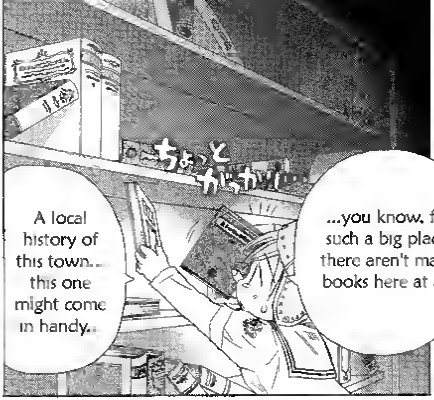

AND THE WARMONGERS WILL CATCH HIM, AND KILL HIM, AND CUT HIS BODY UP INTO BLOODY LITTLE CHUNKS~ ♡
D-don't say that...

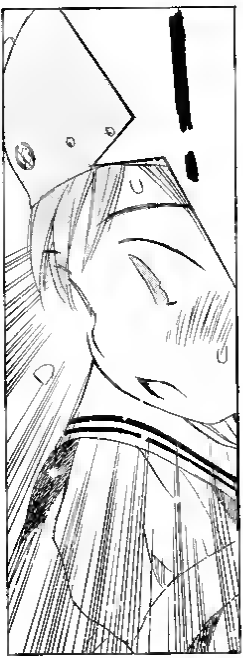
WH-!
WH...
WHAT IS IT NOW?!
AH!!


ドンドンドン


OH WELL EVER SINCE SHE WAS A KID, BOOKS AND I HAVE BEEN HER ONLY FRIENDS SHE'S NEVER HAD A HUMAN CONFRONTION ♡
オタク…☆
WHAT A BOOK-WORM
THIS IS NOT THE TIME OR PLACE!
C'mon, just a little!
FINE! SEE IF I CARE WHEN WE GET KILLED!
Yay! Yay! A library!
COOOL!
Loooves books

Quote from her father
Books are the source of human knowledge and understanding!
Besides, I might find out something about this town and the Lower World that I couldn't learn up at home.



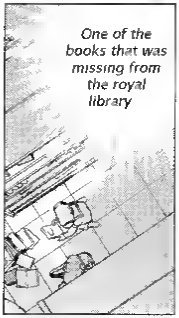


but who would have thought the Politick Tribe was doing such horrible things down here?

It was a shock to me too not just Princess Icoro

Years ago the Politicks and Warmongers used to live for the royal family

But now that the king has disappeared the Politick's fascist leanings have gotten out of hand This country is just about done for



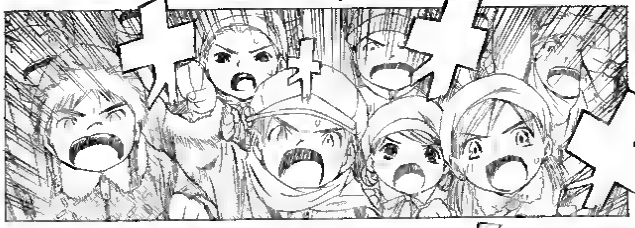
Book Solar Studies

Kill the Warmongers!
Kill the Politicks!
We are going to deal a terrible blow to all those who have scoffed at the "children" of the Resistance!
Listen, everyone! We are about to begin our mission to infiltrate and destroy the Catfish!
We will fight without fear, for we take pride in being the Nakcha people, and we take pride in our heritage as the descendants of our ancestors, who fought to protect the kingdom!
We will take back our Spirit!

Kill!
Such young children
Yona
Kill!
NYAA~ KIDS INDEED THEY'RE ALL GONNA DIE ♡
This is awful
Oh no! Those kids are just going to charge in without a plan, after all!
OH DEAR- MAYBE WE'RE THE ONES WHO WILL GET SLAUGH-TERED
Kill!
Kill!
Kill!
What should we do? Let's kill her!
That little girl ran away! The lock on the door is broken!
What is it?
Imza!
Shoot! They already found out!!

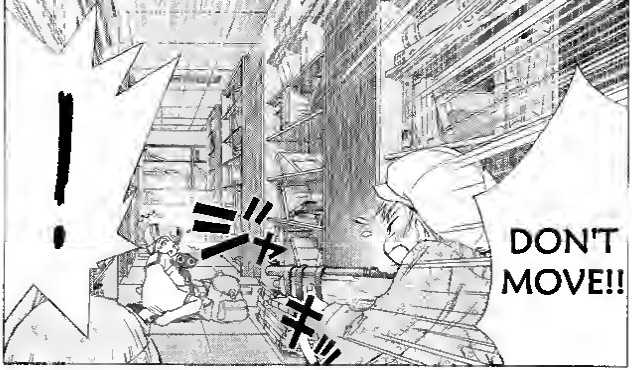
13 years old
Besides, what can she do? She can't be more than 7 or 8.
WAIT!!
We don't have time to be concerned about her right now!!
The day the Catfish flies is close at hand!!
Reconnaissance tells us many high-ranking Politick members and sponsors have been visiting the experiment site.

But we still have our bodies!!
Our plan to dig a secret tunnel and steal back the Spirit was foiled by the adults!

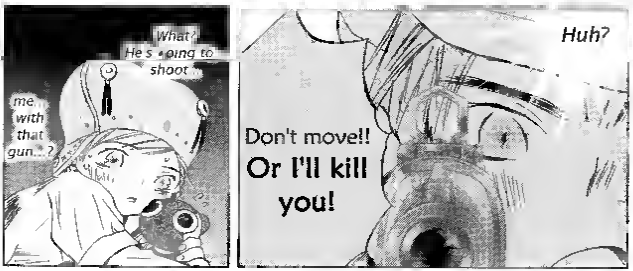


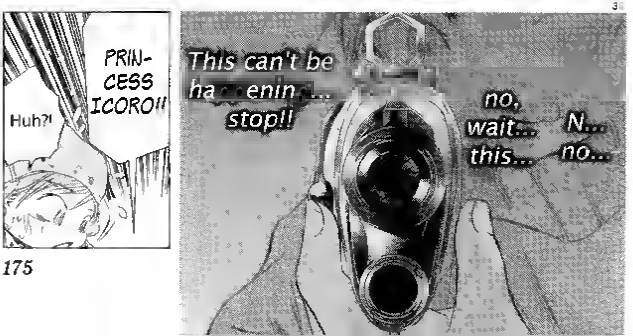
All we can do now is attack them and take back the Spirit by FORCE!!
The Politicks and Warmongers have already taken our Spirit into the Catfish!

Whichever side fares better will come to the aid of the other!
Isn't there any way to stop them ?
What should I do ?
We'll split into two groups and attack twice, with a lapse inbetween
Oh no
Do not fear death!!

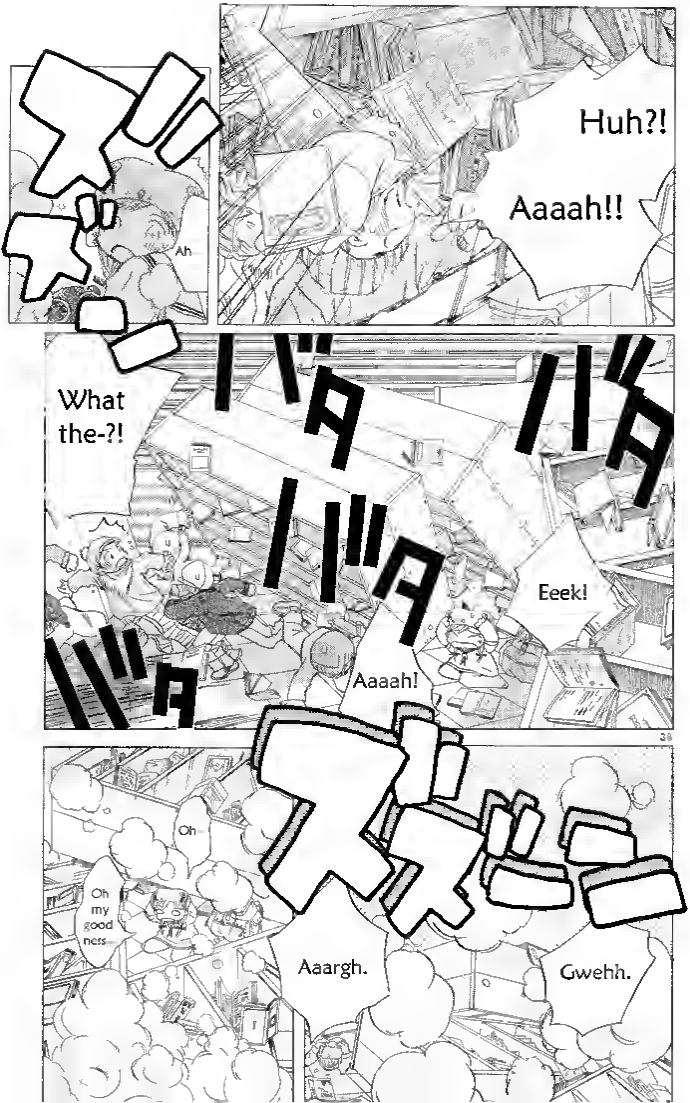

!!
ミシャキ!!
DON'T MOVE!!

They're younger than me !!
Hey, I found her!
Are they in the Resistance too ?


What? He's going to shoot me with that gun...?
Huh?
Don't move!! Or I'll kill you!


PRIN-CESS ICORO!!
Huh?!
This can't be ha enin ... stop!!
no, wait... this...
N... no...

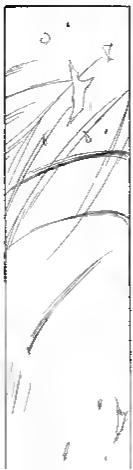
!! !!!
W-w-w-w-what are you d-d-doing?!
JUST GET DOWN!!!
Or I'll...
H... hey, don't move!!
GIIYA AAAA AAAAAA


Ah
Huh?!
Aaaah!!
What the-?!
バタ
バタ
バタ
バタ
Eeek!
Aaaah!
Oh
Oh my goodness
Aaargh.
Gwehh.
ズボ
ズボ

WHEWWWW!
THAT SCARED ME!♡
カリ
カリ
カリ
カリ

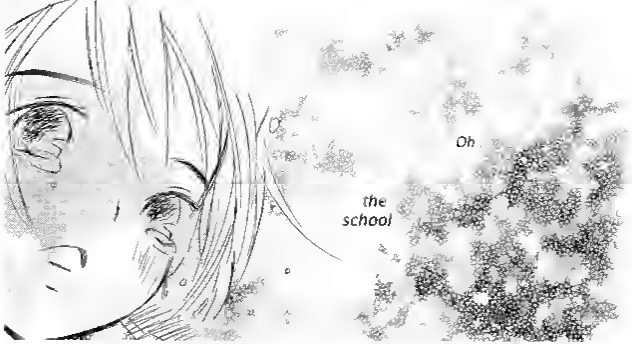
GWERK-
Ah... w-wait! Daddy's book...
Daddy's

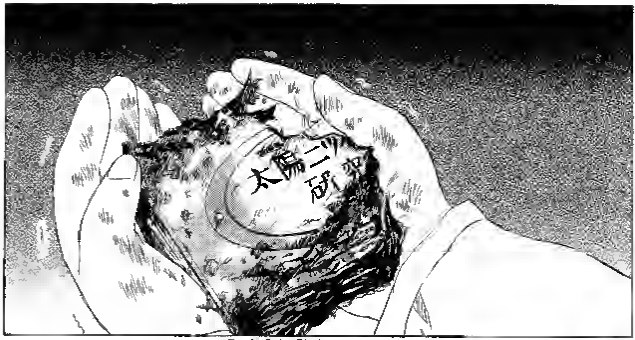
No, it scared ME!
Just about gave me a heart attack
NOW LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!
カリ

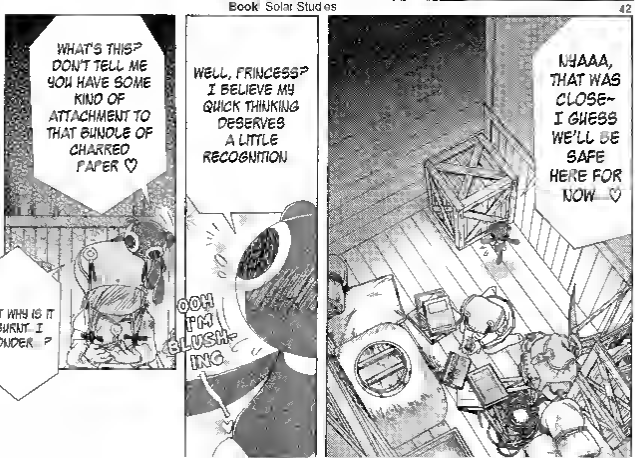


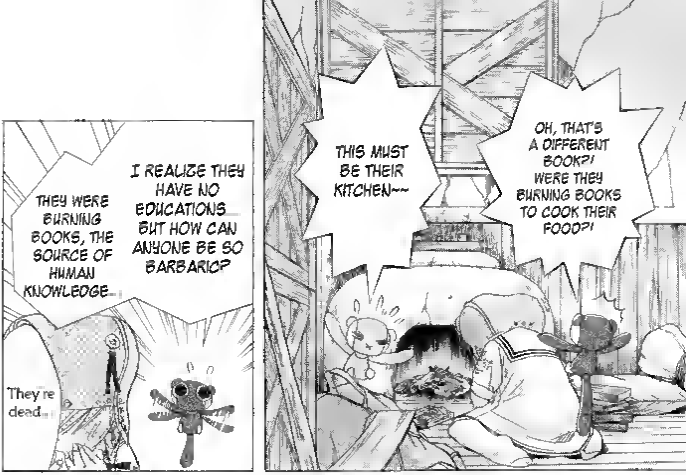
Wait! Don't run.
Daddy
40
Ah.
Ng-
Halt!
RUN, YOU FOOL!♡

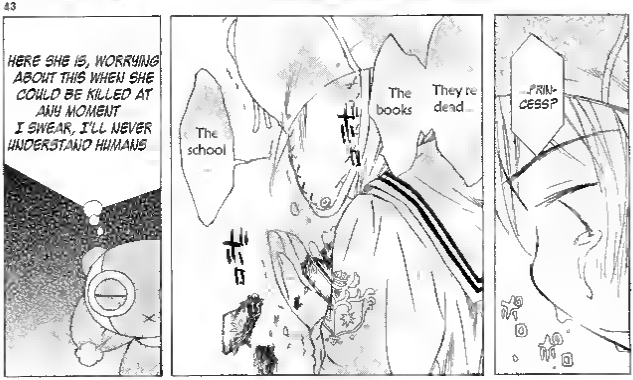
D...ddy's book was there...
Yes originally this town
It must have been a cultured place
Must have had quality education


Oh
the
school

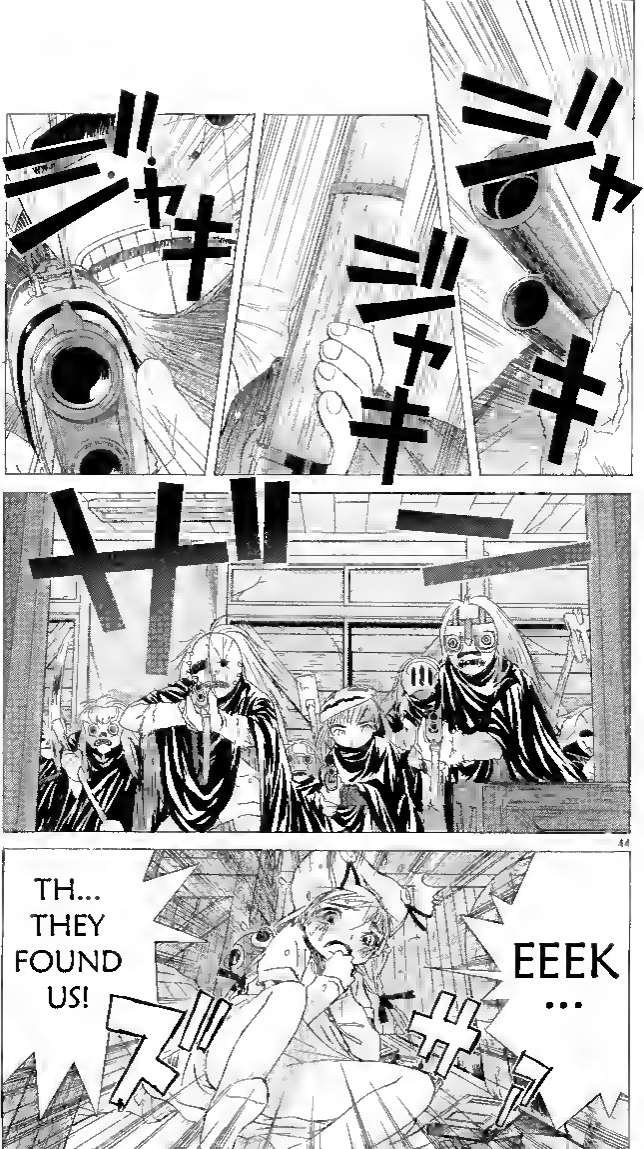

太陽二放


WHAT'S THIS? DON'T TELL ME YOU HAVE SOME KIND OF ATTACHMENT TO THAT BUNDLE OF CHARRED PAPER ♡
BUT WHY IS IT BURNT... I WONDER...?
WELL, PRINCESS? I BELIEVE MY QUICK THINKING DESERVES A LITTLE RECOGNITION
OOH I'M BLUSHING
NHAAA, THAT WAS CLOSE~ I GUESS WE'LL BE SAFE HERE FOR NOW ♡


THEY WERE BURNING BOOKS, THE SOURCE OF HUMAN KNOWLEDGE...
I REALIZE THEY HAVE NO EDUCATIONS... BUT HOW CAN ANYONE BE SO BARBARIC?
They're dead...
THIS MUST BE THEIR KITCHEN~~
OH, THAT'S A DIFFERENT BOOK?! WERE THEY BURNING BOOKS TO COOK THEIR FOOD?!


HERE SHE IS, WORRYING ABOUT THIS WHEN SHE COULD BE KILLED AT ANY MOMENT
I SWEAR, I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND HUMANS
The school...
The books...
They're dead...
...PRINCESS?

Our "culture"...
Our "peace"...
Our kingdom
It's all...
Everything's...
dead...


ジャキ
ジャキ
ジャキ
ナリ
TH... THEY FOUND US!
EEEK...
ズドドドド

Why did you run away?

Fngyaaa!
Waah!
Gya! Waah!

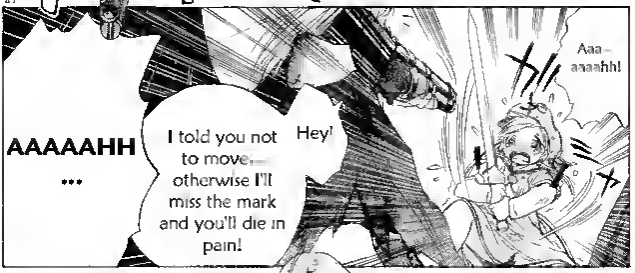
Ouch!
Eeeeeek!

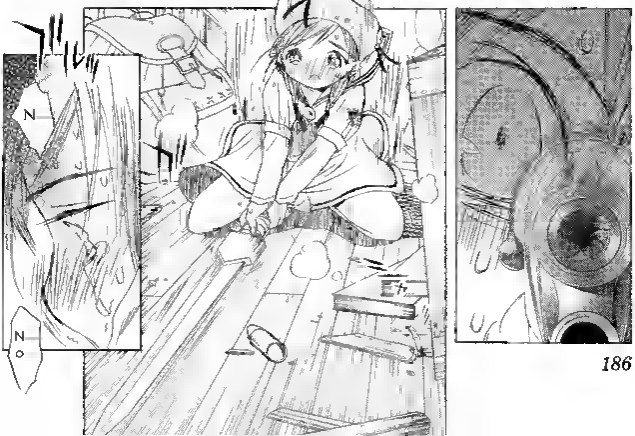
THE SWORD!!
Oh my god, I'm gonna die, I'm gonna die!
PRINCESS! PRINCESS!
I'm so scared!
PICK IT UP!! IT'S A WEAPON!!

-GYAAAAAAAAA!-
shut u

Y-you're kidding...!
Huh?!
What?
YOU MUST FIGHT!!
(Weapon...?!
Uh...
You fool... I told you we wouldn't kill you. If you behaved...
EEE-EEK!!
Didn't I?!
45
Ah-ah...
You're blaming it on others again...
.....
Shiro—
It... it wasn't me!!
Oh and I only picked this up because Kuro told me to—

I'll kill you in one clean shot... so it doesn't hurt!
Don't move... now!
Will... you... save me?
Yeah!


Aaa— aaaahh!
Hey!
I told you not to move... otherwise I'll miss the mark and you'll die in pain!
AAAAAHH ...


N
N

H...
h-hey,
you...
?
Ah...
48

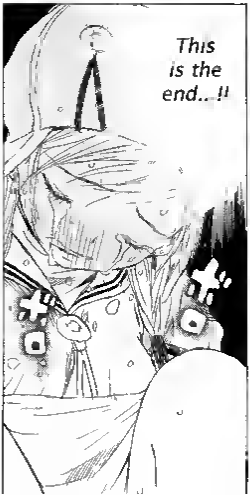
Look...!
Aaah?!
Ah...
Hey
Is
that
Can't
be--

What's that ?!
W...
The Hero's Mask!
It can't be...
the Hero's Mask...?
Is that...
Hero's Mask...?
Oh... Ohhh!

I saw in the other room
That's the mask

Why...
Is the Hero here...?

Why...


This is the end...!!

GYA AAA AAA
Are you makin' those things again?
SHIRO?!
SH...

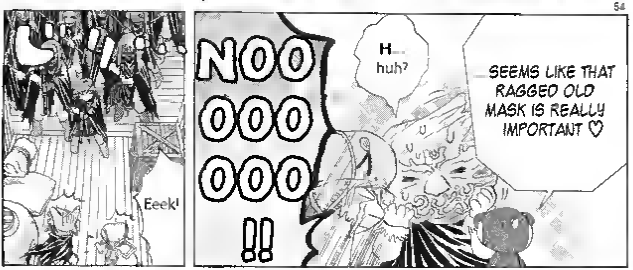
W-W-W-W-W-WHY?!
Isn't this mask sweet?
I found it while on my journey to find a sun. Heheh!
Listen to me!!
-HA HA HA HA-
What about you? Did you finally decide to come looking, too?
But why are you HERE...
Don't be silly!
I rushed over here because I heard my friend crying, of course!
52
I... I'm not blushing!!
PRINCESS... I WANT TO POINT OUT THAT THIS IS NO TIME TO BE BLUSHING...
I know you have no friends and all but...
how dare you!!

How DARE you...
How dare you...
How dare you...
How dare you...
How dare you...
How dare you...

How dare you disgrace the sacred Hero's Mask...

Hoe?

54


Eeek!
NOO OOO OOO !!
H... huh?
SEEMS LIKE THAT RAGGED OLD MASK IS REALLY IMPORTANT ♡

.....?
What's that?
The noise is getting closer!

!?
55
W... what is that?!
Hyaaa-
Aaaa-
AAAAHH!

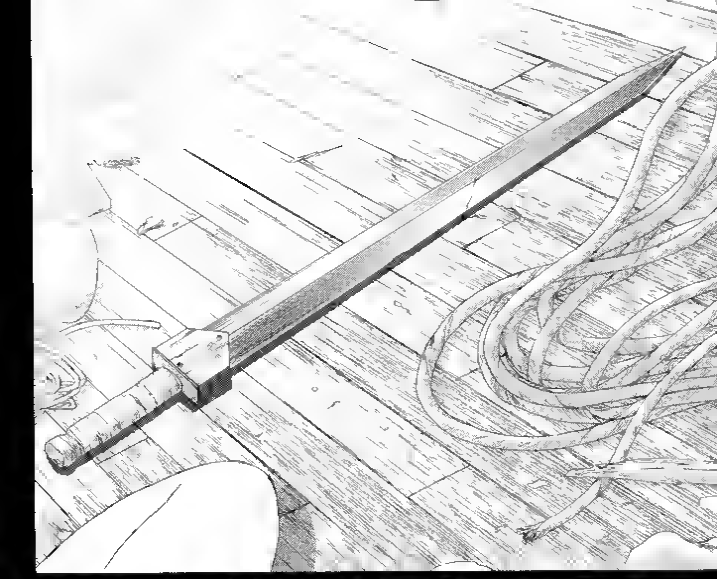
!?
O...
oh no...

It's HER!
Yeesh, I thought that was the end for me...
ow ww

The whole freakin' tank fell into the building! You
Uaargh!
BONK
Of course I'm not ALL RIGHT!
Yow-ow-ow...
are you all right, Commander?

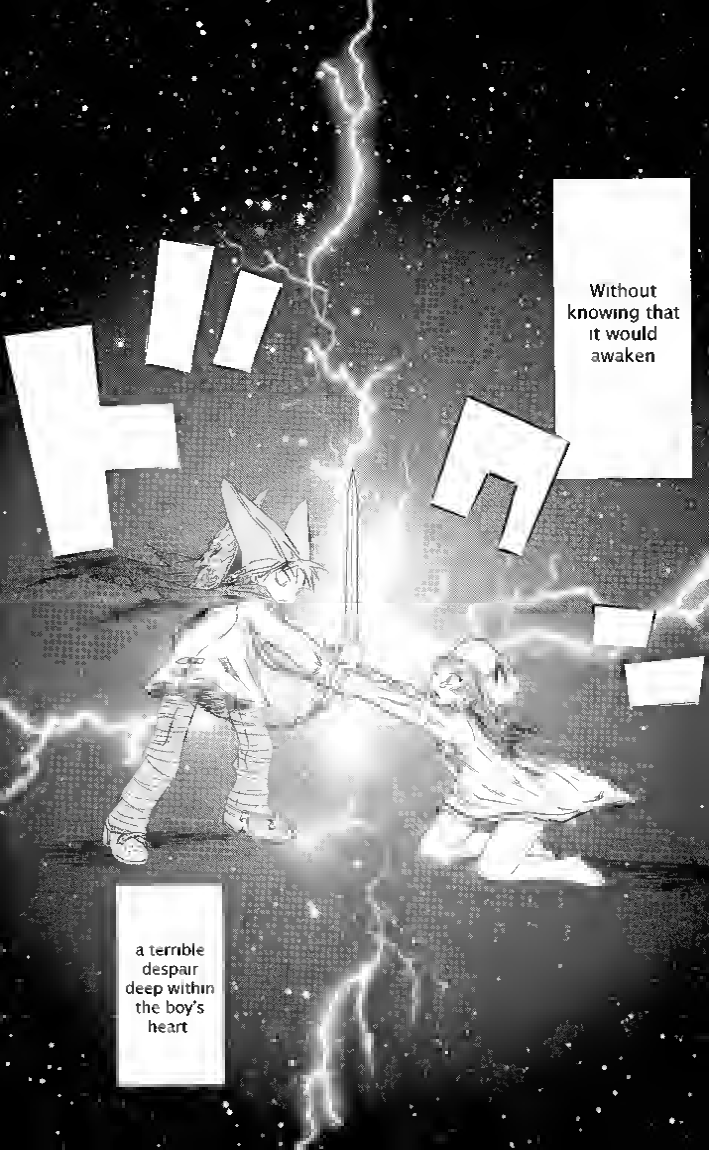
はっ

Hand over the Hitogata!!
All right, you little brats, you're not gettin' away this time!
Of all times, why why why?!
W-w-why did they have to show up here NOW?!
58
What should we do? What should we do? Waaahh!
Hurry and what?!
AAAAH! H-H-H-HURRY!
It was that moment



That instant
The princess looked around
and made a sudden,
nearly reflexive

decision.


Without knowing that it would awaken
a terrible despair deep within the boy's heart

ゴゴゴゴ
Immediately the princess sensed
62
Uh...
No...
that she had made "the wrong decision
Oh...
And then

...can I?

——きみのカケラ 2・完——

Kimi no Kakera

To be continued

「きみのカケラ」★vol 2

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Afterword

It has been a year since the first volume was published

During that time I have been able to think hard and ponder over *Kimi no Kakera* " over Shiro and Icoro Because of that most of this volume has been redrawn Of course I wasn't being paid for taking all this time off and I certainly don't expect to be commended for it but I like to think that I have been granted a very rare opportunity and I would like to extend my unending gratitude to all those readers who sent in letters of encouragement during this time
Thank you very much

I would also like to thank all my original staff members who stuck with me even through these hard times I would also like to thank my new staff members who continued to be energetic and positive despite the hard and sometimes bewildering work that they were assigned for their first jobs

I stubbornly hope that for all the trouble I have caused people in order to receive this lucky break the additional time and effort will shine through and entertain a greater number of readers this time

Once again our two protagonists What will Shiro and Icoro discover?
Children and adults alike please enjoy this adventure

Late autumn, 2003 Shin Takahashi

PIECE OF NEXT TALE

「きみのカケラ」

LOOK FOR ONE PIECE TO THE FUTURE OF YOURS

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To Be Continued...!